



IN GAY PRIDE '89 BAY AREA REPORTER

THIS PAPER IS IN THREE SECTIONS

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Love on the Street

Pain and Pride Among the Lesbian/Gay Homeless

by Dennis Conkin

I remember my first night on the street in the Tenderloin. It was during the wet, chilly winter of 1984. I had been evicted from my Sunset District apartment of four years just two weeks earlier through a quirk in the rent-control ordinance that gives landlords the prerogative to allow a relative to move into an apartment they own, inhabited or not. My landlord's daughter moved in. I moved out.

I "crashed around" with friends, stayed at the Y, but my money ran out and so did the temporary job I had been working for the previous six months. I was newly divorced, extremely depressed and scared out of my wits.

It was either the street or the shelters. For awhile I contemplated sleeping under a truck, but it was too cold and wet out. Feeling utterly humiliated, I snuck into the back of a shelter line and waited my chance. It wasn't a sure thing. I could be turned away if they ran out of room. But I was lucky that night. I made it inside. It was just a few days after Christmas. I had just turned 32.

I lived in the shelters and homeless programs for a year and a half. What I saw, felt and learned living among other homeless people changed my life.

There are certain realities on the hard-knock, heartbreak streets of the Tenderloin. The poverty is grinding, the violence, despair and frustration real and immediate, the ugliness and the tragedy often overwhelming. Yet, in a testament to the capacity of the human spirit, love, in all its majesty, manages to survive.

Not only does it survive, sometimes it flourishes. Betsy knows what I mean.

"I was living in a bad situation. The people I was living with were heavily into drugs. One night I packed my bags and took off," Betsy, 29, says. Her odyssey began in 1987. "I just had to get out of there."

"That night I slept in a car on the street. I knew that I had to get off the street. I just wanted to make it all go away. I slept in the car thinking, 'What if somebody tries to kill me?'" Betsy remembers. "I kept thinking, 'What if somebody else already lives here?'"

Betsy made it through the night. The next morning she dialed 911 and was referred to St. Anthony Foundation on Jones Street in the Tenderloin.

"I went to eat there. I'd been on Market Street and seen bag ladies, but I didn't know there were so many homeless. The long lines surprised me," she told the Bay Area Reporter.



Betsy and Kathy in front of the St. Anthony Drop-In Center, where they met.
(Photo: Barbara J. Maggiani)

Betsy was fortunate. She managed to find a space at St. Anthony Women's Shelter that afternoon after standing in line with two thousand people in the Foundation's free lunch program.

"It was weird. I got into the shelter right away. I slept on a mat on the floor with 40 other women. Half of them were older ladies who had just lost it, the other half had been on drugs," she says. (Continued on page 26)

Gay Band Stopped In Sonoma Park

by Allen White

The San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band was stopped from marching last Sunday by nervous park police at the third annual Sonoma County Lesbian/Gay Pride Picnic in Santa Rosa. The band was the featured attraction at the gay pride celebration, which recently has been the subject of controversy in the county.

Members of the San Francisco band journeyed to Santa Rosa and were invited to present an encore performance of their May spring march concert. They also planned to use part of the time to rehearse march routines they will present Sunday at the San Francisco parade.

Park police officials, reports state, were concerned because the gay event was advertised in local newspapers. The concern was that gays would overrun the park.

Mike Mehr, assistant manager of the band, said, "They were polite, but firm."

He said police diligently enforced a limit on cars in the park. This resulted in many people having to park away from the park and carry their band instruments.

When the band began march routines, Mehr said they were stopped because the police said

(Continued on page 4)

Dykes on Bikes

Women Celebrate "A Wonderful Tradition"

by Mary Richards

The sound starts out as a faint rumble in the distance and grows to an electrifying roar as, every year, hundreds of Dykes on Bikes lead the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade. Arms raised in salute, their flags flying in the wind, the bikers present a powerful picture as they set the pace for the entire Market Street march route.

The audience goes wild for these women in T-shirts and jeans, leather and lace, chaps and chains. They ride forward in a place of honor as heralds for the tens of thousands who march behind them.

For the parade this year, the Dykes on Bikes are making some changes. Plagued in the past by rumors of warring factions within the contingent, the various clubs are making a special effort to present a united front for Gay Freedom Day. It has not been easy in the past, but after this year, it may be better in the future.

It was at a potluck in Berkeley in 1977 that the name Dykes on Bikes was suggested to Glenna McElhinney, a woman who was interested in motorcycles and who wanted to ride in the parade.

March organizers were doing specific outreach to the lesbian community and were looking for a group to lead the women marchers. "It just happened that way, it was mostly spontaneous," Glenna recalls. "That year was the first year there was a women's contingent. We were in the right place at the right time."

As the years passed, the number of independent riders grew, and even though other motorcycle groups were represented, Dykes on Bikes would become, as Glenna expresses it, "the generic term" for the entire contingent.

Some riders rebelled against structuring their participation in the parade. Difficulties arose between motorcyclists and the parade committees. In some cases, inaccurate information was translated to people who wanted to register. "It made for a lot of ill will amongst the motorcyclists, and a lot got dumped on the parade," Glenna says, "much of which was probably unfair to the parade committee."

A preliminary meeting was held last August in an effort to bring about a reconciliation between the various bike groups and promote a more organized system of registering the hundreds of participants in the contingent. Progress was made in the period that formed. As a non-aligned rider, Glenna was chosen to chair the monthly meetings, which brought together two voting members from each club and a few independent riders who participated.

"We ran the meetings by consensus," Glenna explains. "It was open discussion, and everyone was able to talk. They put forth their ideas, and all the decisions, except for two or three, were arrived at by consensus."

This year, the lineup for the clubs in the parade was determined by picking their names from a helmet. The lottery system has proved a successful alternative to previous methods of determining who would ride first. A spirit of cooperation is in the air, and the women who are ready to ride sound hopeful about the extraordinary day ahead of them.

Leather and Blues will be the pace club for the contingent, and their riders will be the first that spectators see. Lynnalia Wilkes,

(Continued on next page)



Dykes on Bikes in last year's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade. This year's parade will step off from Castro and Market streets at 11 a.m. on Sunday.
(Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

Dykes

(Continued from previous page)

who rides with the group, says it was first formed with 10 women in 1984. Within a year and a half they had a mailing list of 150 people, but Lynalia acknowledges that "we always have around 35 people who are actually consistently in the club. The others come and go.

"We just basically wanted to have an organization where women could meet other women with motorcycles and to go out and ride and have fun together," she says. Later on, the group changed focus, and in response to the AIDS crisis, members volunteered with the Shanti Project.

She concurs with the parade organizers' predictions that the parade this year will be one of the biggest. "I think that especially with AIDS in our community, a lot of people understand that it's important for them to be out more, because of how homophobic people have become. The parade stands for a lot. For 20 years we've been expressing our freedom, and our gayness, and everything that the parade stands for." Parade organizers say they expect upwards of 250,000 people to attend Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day events.

Independent riders from throughout California follow the pace club, and the Cogent Warriors come next. They formed about four years ago, and biker Boe says, "we're kind of a traditional bike club. We pride ourselves on distance trips to other states, and we participate in motorcycle-related fund raisers. As a club, we escorted the Quilt in San Francisco after it got back from its first national tour.

"We're definitely looking forward to networking with the women from other clubs out of town, because we don't always get to see them and participate with them. At parade time we look forward to exchanging stories, knowing what they've been doing and sharing what we've been doing."

Participants in the parade set precedent, and this year it's no different. Next to ride is a group of clean and sober women who are sponsored by a girl gang called the Devil Dolls. Melisa Mustang rides with them, and says they formed a year ago "as a parody on girl gangs. There's this old B movie *Devil Dolls*, and that's how we got the name."

Melisa believes they are the first clean and sober group of women riders to participate in the parade. "It's a real powerful statement to see lesbians on motorcycles," she adds, "and to me it's an even more powerful statement to see clean and sober women riding motorcycles."

Women in the Wind will be the last riders in the Dykes on Bikes contingent. They are called the "sweep" bikes, and the last motorcycles will be flying two rainbow flags to represent the end of the women's motorcycle contingent.

It's their third year in the parade. Rider Angela Clark says, "I'm really excited about being involved in the women's motorcycle contingent for the first time. After attending the meetings, now I know the background and how much work goes into it, and I've met other groups. It was really nice."

All the work will be worth it Sunday morning when women bikers arrive from throughout California and neighboring states. Representatives from the Women's Motorcycle Advisory Group, and assigned road cap-



Members of the Dykes on Bikes contingent in last year's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade. This year's parade steps off from Castro and Market streets Sunday, June 25, at 11 a.m.

(Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

tains from each club, will be registering hundreds of bikers at tables set up in front of Francine's bar on Collingwood and 18th streets.

Under law, everyone who rides in the parade must pay a \$7 fee

to cover insurance in case her bike runs out of control and hits a spectator. Although giving one's address is optional, each woman must be identified by her name, driver's license number, motorcycle license plate number,

and vehicle type, make, model and year. Although motorcycle clubs must pre-register by Saturday, June 24, individual riders can register the morning of the parade to participate with a specific club, or to be represented as an independent biker.

Because Castro Street near Market will be entirely blocked off, there are only two entry points in the area for motorcycles to approach the Dykes on Bikes contingent to register. Riders can come in from the top of Collingwood at 19th Street or from the east side of Collingwood, approaching from the Eureka Street side.

After registering, women can participate in the motorcycle party, which will encompass the entire area from Market Street to 19th Street on Collingwood. There, women riders will congregate in preparation for the beginning of the parade.

Whoever the Dykes on Bikes will be, and wherever they come from, their presence in the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade is an unforgettable and dramatic sight for onlookers.

Glenn McElhinney says, "To lead the parade was a really proud thing. We felt, in the beginning especially, that it was important women be included. To be given that place of honor to lead really was an acknowledgment that women deserved placement in the parade also. As the numbers grew, it became a tradition, which was very positive. It's a wonderful tradition." ▼



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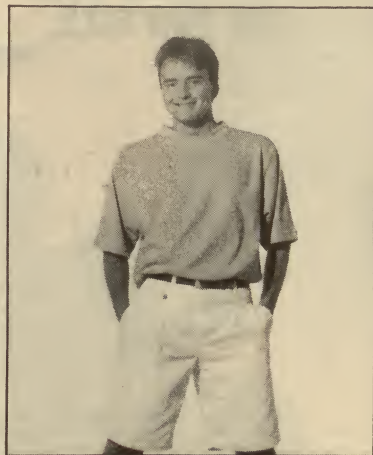
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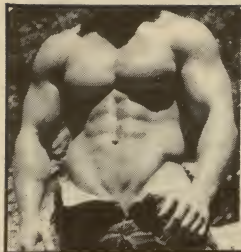
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Migden Named To Health Commission



Carole Migden.

(Photo: George T. Kfise)

David Roberti, president pro tem of the California Senate, has appointed Carole Migden to the state's 10-member Health Manpower Policy Commission.

The commission oversees the licensing of health care facilities and the scope of training of medical interns as well as the development of primary health care in non-urban settings.

Migden, chair of the San Francisco Democratic Party, was ap-

pointed to this commission as a result of the recommendation and follow up work of state Sen. Milton Marks. She has had more than a decade of experience in health care administration.

As executive director of Operation Concern in San Francisco, she promoted the development of innovative programs that addressed the health concerns of gay men and lesbians.

Concurrently, her work within the Democratic Party ensured

that the California Democratic Party was strongly supportive of AIDS/ARC research funding during the early stages of the epidemic. As a commissioner she can have a tremendous impact.

Migden is the first lesbian state commissioner, and her awareness of gay and lesbian health-care issues will help to ensure continued education of our state's health-care professionals.

Bay Cruise to Benefit PAWS

"Get Your PAWS Wet," a three hour benefit cruise on The Bay produced by Pets Are Wonderful Support, launches on board the 115-foot yacht Regina Del Mare Saturday, June 24 from 7-10 p.m. The benefit is scheduled to kick off a weekend of celebration for the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade.

PAWS is an all-volunteer California non-profit organization created in 1987 to directly assist people with AIDS/ARC by caring for their loved companions, their pets. Services include in-home direct care, foster care and permanent adoption assistance, education, pet food/supplies and acute-need veterinary care.

Providing assistance to more than 200 clients and many more pets with a roster of more than 500 volunteers, PAWS depends solely on individual and small corporate donations to fund its work.

Well-known disc jockeys Tim Rivers and Jonnie Ware will provide non-stop music, and recording artist Jo Carol will make a guest appearance to help support this unique organization. Bus transportation is being provided compliments of S.F. Charterhouse (reservations required by phoning 537-6825), and one complimentary beverage of choice (then, no-host bar) and complimentary hors d'oeuvres are provided by PAWS. Video is provided compliments of the Male Entertainment Network.

Boarding is at 6:30 p.m. and the cruise departs promptly at 7 p.m. from 855 China Basin (the Ramp Restaurant) in San Francisco. Cost is \$40/person (non-refundable), and tickets are available at A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro, or by telephoning the PAWS office at 824-5253.

VA to Conduct AZT Study

The San Francisco VA Medical Center at Fort Miley is participating in a double-blind study on the early treatment of HIV-positive persons using the drug, AZT. Enrollment is projected to be completed by the end of 1989.

Individuals are eligible for the study if they meet the following criteria:

- (1) Are HIV antibody positive or have a diagnosis of ARC.
- (2) Are a veteran.
- (3) Have a helper T-cell count between 200-500 (VA will do the testing).
- (4) Are not taking AZT.

If you are interested and think you may be eligible, please call between noon and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, 221-4810, ext. 3224.

Sonoma

(Continued from page 2)

"we would make too much noise." Mehr said the police were unfazed by the argument that the noise would be no louder than the concert, which was performed without interruption.

Earlier this month Gay Pride Week activities were voted down in Sonoma County. The Board of Supervisors defeated a resolution by a 4-1 vote. The board vote came after the Sonoma County's Commission on AIDS voted 6-3 in favor of a resolution to recognize the gay community's efforts to fight AIDS in May.

Jim Spahr, a gay activist supporting the resolution, said, "We will be back next year." He said the resolution served "to bring the community together." The groups that planned the picnic and lobbied for the resolution have gathered together under the informal name of "Sonomawall."

There are now eight California counties that recognize gay pride week in California. The entire month of June has been officially recognized by the city and county of San Francisco. Magi Fedorka, author of the resolution, estimates that more than 40,000 of the 370,000 people in Sonoma County are gay.

One reason for the event was the decision by event organizers to purchase a half-page ad in the *Santa Rosa Press-Democrat* newspaper. It sent a signal, even to those not attending, that gay men and lesbians were going to celebrate their pride in Sonoma County. Spahr noted it was probably the ad that "gave the park rangers the jitters." Several people said the park police simply did not know what to expect.

The San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band had another rehearsal Tuesday night in Golden Gate Park. This year the band is marching at the front of the parade, right behind the grand marshals.

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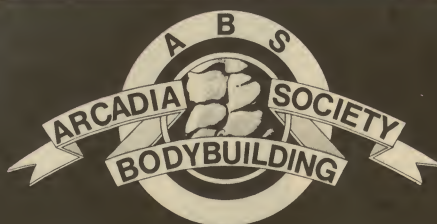
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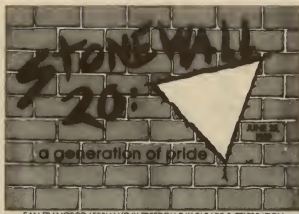
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Health and Equality

by Representative Barbara Boxer

Today, some 20 years after the founding of the modern lesbian and gay civil rights movement, the San Francisco lesbian/gay community has risen to one of the greatest challenges in human history. I have never been as proud of this community as I am today when I talk to my colleagues in Congress about the response to the catastrophe of AIDS and the continuing struggle for equality in the midst of this fight.

It is up to those of us in Congress to take the energy and commitment we see in the Bay Area and channel it into equal rights for all Americans while we provide a generous federal response to the HIV epidemic. Health and equality are two words that sum up the issues which are at the forefront of my efforts on behalf of the lesbian and gay community.

Non-Discrimination

Our attempt to enact non-discrimination legislation was, unfortunately, unsuccessful last year. The Federal AIDS Policy Act, in its original form, contained sections dealing with confidential AIDS antibody testing and would have established a federal standard for non-discrimination. The right wing objected to the anti-discrimination piece, which resulted in the bill moving out of subcommittee without the anti-discrimination protections. While there currently exists limited protection against discrimination, standards differ from state to state. This has created an unacceptable circumstance of widely differing levels of protection against discrimination based on where you live—hardly a way to manage a national epidemic. Anti-discrimination is the cornerstone to all of our efforts to halt the epidemic.

Anti-discrimination has found a better vehicle in this Congress through the Americans with Disabilities Act. As a co-sponsor of this legislation, I am both proud and optimistic about its eventual passage. To date, this bill has 170 co-sponsors. Building on previous legal precedents which have treated HIV infection, ARC and AIDS as handicapped conditions under Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitative Act, this bill fills in gaps and extends protections to private settings. It will outlaw discrimination in employment, transportation, and public accommodations. It will set a standard that we can all be proud of.

Lesbian/Gay Civil Rights

Every year since its introduction, we have been successful in adding co-sponsors to the Lesbian/Gay Civil Rights Act. By the time of its reintroduction in the 101st Congress, we had garnered 70 co-sponsors for this bill. This legislation is the foundation to establishing lesbian and gay equality on a nation-wide basis. Remarkably simple, it would add sexual orientation to the list of other protected classes established in the Civil Rights Act of 1964: race, religion and national origin

and its latter addition of handicapped status.

"Twenty years of activism has created a strong presence in Washington."

Hate Crimes Statistics Act

Congress has begun to address the horror of anti-gay violence by including sexual orientation as a class in the Hate Crimes Statistics Bill. We were successful last year in including lesbian and gay people in the portion of the bill which requires the collecting of statistics about acts that manifest prejudice based on race, religion, homosexuality, heterosexuality or ethnicity. The bill attempts to identify acts which have a racist or homophobic motivation through the gathering of data which may be used to enact protective statutes. The dramatic increase in anti-gay violence seen throughout the United States should convince even the most irrational critics that gay people deserve to be protected from assault, battery and harassment which has a homophobic intent. It is an embarrassment to our society and evidence of the depth of prejudice against which we must fight.

The HIV Epidemic

Our greatest success has been in our ability to increase the federal AIDS budget. Since the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, we have had to struggle with an administration which submitted terribly inadequate budgets calling for a decrease in AIDS funding despite a doubling of AIDS cases every 18 months. This year we were successful in passing a budget of \$1.8 billion for AIDS research, patient care, education and prevention. As a member of the Budget Committee, I can tell you this was the largest percentage increase of any budget item, but it still falls short.

Most promising in our efforts is the enormous opportunity to assist asymptomatic seropositives. Data coming out of the International AIDS Conference in Montreal together with extensive clinical experience in San Francisco is solidly making the case for early treatment. Prophylactic treatment for *Pneumocystis pneumonia* as well as treatment with AZT clearly is reducing the incidence of opportunistic infections. Through early monitoring of immune functioning, together with early treatment, we can extend both the quality of life and actual lifespan.

In March of this year, I held Budget Committee hearings to focus specifically on early intervention and treatment as an emerging priority in the federal AIDS budget. We invited a number of experts from San Francisco, including Dr. David Werdegar, Dr. Donald Francis, and Dr. Thomas Coates to explain the concept and make the case for the substantial financial commitment required to make



Representative Barbara Boxer.

these treatments available. The challenge before us rests in solidifying the scientific consensus and translating that into the

policy and budgetary support to carry out this next step in making the real hope of treatment come true.

Twenty years of activism since the Stonewall riots has created a strong presence on a variety of issues in Washington. The lesbian/gay movement has a very effective lobbying presence supported by an activist base throughout the United States. Unfortunately, the challenges of the AIDS epidemic and the indifference to lesbian/gay civil rights remain formidable. Paradoxically, the visibility of the gay community as seen in its heroic efforts to fight and end the AIDS epidemic has humanized the image for many unsympathetic members of Congress. I am particularly proud to represent one of the most dynamic and committed congressional districts in the country and together we all make a difference. We will not cease our efforts until true equality and an AIDS-free society are realities. ▼

U.S. Capitol's Flag Day Flag To Lead Freedom Day Parade

by Allen White

An American flag that flew over the United States Capitol on Flag Day will be at the front of next Sunday's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade and will fly over City Hall on the same day. The flag was presented to the parade grand marshals Friday night at the opening of the Lesbian/Gay Film Festival by U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi.

Pelosi also announced that she hoped to convince the Smithsonian Institution to create a section honoring Stonewall and the gay movement. What happened at Stonewall and other events in the gay rights movement, she said, are a significant part of the nation's history. She noted that

San Francisco's gay history predated the 1969 Stonewall riots in New York City.

Last year Pelosi was successful in creating a spot in the Smithsonian Institution for panels from the Names Project Quilt. She said she believed gay civil rights history was equally important and deserved to be recognized.

The flag that was presented Friday flew on June 14—Flag Day. On the same day Pelosi recognized gay men and lesbians and the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day activities in the *Congressional Record*. This is the first time in history that the San Francisco gay pride events have been

so acknowledged.

Pelosi flew from Washington, D.C., to San Francisco Friday with the flag. She was introduced at the opening of the film festival by Academy Award winning filmmaker Rob Epstein.

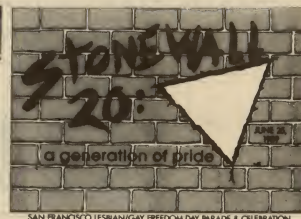
For the presentation, gay parade co-chairs Flo Tumulo and Steven Lindsay were joined by grand marshals Jose Sarria, Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon. A visibly moved Sarria remembered when, as a child, he went to the Castro Theater for 5 cents. Holding the flag he said, "Nothing, absolutely nothing, is impossible." ▼



Rep. Nancy Pelosi, third from left, presents a U.S. flag that flew over the Capitol in Washington to Jose Sarria, one of the grand marshals for Sunday's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade. Others onstage at the Castro Theatre: Michael Lumpkin, Rob Epstein, and grand marshals Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon.

(Photo: Rink)

Privacy Rights, Abortion Rights And the Gay Community



SAN FRANCISCO LESBIAN/GAY FREEDOM DAY PARADE & CELEBRATION

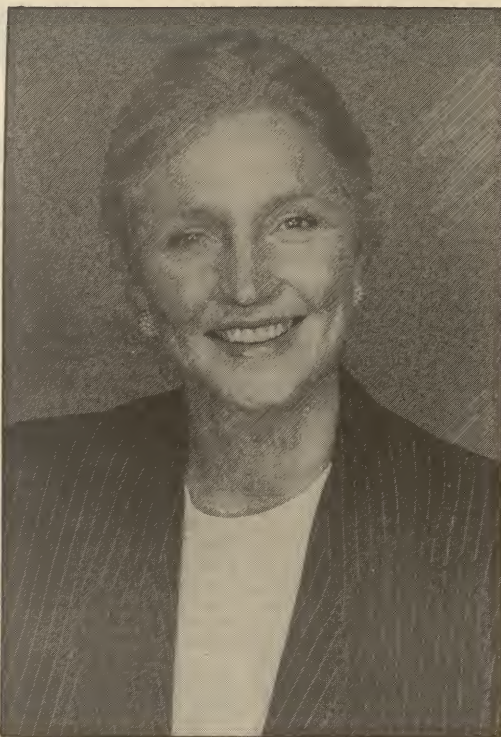
by Supervisor Nancy Walker
with T.J. Anthony

Privacy rights guarantees have been a central goal of the lesbian and gay rights movement since well before Stonewall. With nearly half the states prohibiting same-sex relations, the need for laws to protect personal privacy remains high on the lesbian and gay social agenda.

There have been some important successes since Stonewall. A number of states, including California, have incorporated right-to-privacy provisions in their constitutions. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Griswold v. Connecticut* (1968) that a right to privacy existed in the federal Constitution, thereby allowing married couples to use contraceptives.

In the most celebrated privacy rights victory, *Roe v. Wade* (1973), the Court held that women had the right to abortion during the first trimester of pregnancy. The Court ruled that women had the right to choose abortion in the second trimester, though the medical condition of the procedures could be regulated by the state. And in the final trimester, the Court determined that states could prohibit abortion, except in cases where the mother's life was at stake.

Now, that important privacy right victory for women is in grave jeopardy. The Court is currently reviewing the case of *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services* and numerous others.



Supervisor Nancy Walker.

The worry is that the new conservative majority on the bench will begin chiseling away at abortion rights until access by most

Americans becomes impossible. Of course, the Court might also do what we fear the most—completely overturn *Roe*.

No matter what happens, however, it is clear that the movement to guarantee privacy rights in this country is under attack. The Court signaled its rightward tilt when it shocked most legal scholars and sustained Georgia's sodomy laws in the case of *Bowers v. Hardwicke* (1986).

The issue of women's freedom to choose abortion is much the same as the issue of gay people's quest for full social equality—it is about the right to control one's own body and one's own life.

For many years, lesbians have been in the forefront of the movement to win and defend reproductive rights. Lesbians understand that without absolute control over one's own body, a woman cannot possibly decide her future or destiny. Lesbians understand that a government with the power to regulate child-bearing and family planning is a government with the power to deprive citizens of their families. And for lesbian and gay parents who have struggled with custody and visitation rights issues, this is an all too painful reality.

In recent times, gay men have taken an active role in supporting the pro-choice movement. Through groups like Men Who Care About Women's Lives, gay men have been helping to defend women's clinics, lobby Congress, and turn out large numbers of men for public demonstrations.

Never before has the support of gay men—and all people—been so badly needed. Abortion

rights are under attack in the courts and legislatures. Women's health centers are under siege by extremist groups like Operation Rescue. The Bush administration is pushing the Court to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. If that happens, we will rip away from our Constitution a legal recognition of privacy rights.

We will also return to the days of back-alley butcher shops. To coat hangers and dead women. Millions of women will become impoverished. Others will suffer long-term health consequences or become emotionally scarred. No matter how you feel about the issue of abortion, one thing is clear—we cannot let government take power away from women to control their own bodies and lives. We cannot let women die.

And we cannot let government take power away from lesbians and gay men to control their own bodies and lives. We cannot deprive people with AIDS the right to experimental drugs. We cannot let anyone die needlessly.

Twenty years have passed since Stonewall helped launch the modern lesbian and gay rights movement. There has been a lot of growing during that time. A lot of sweet victories, and a lot of pain. We have travelled this long road to equality together, and we are not turning back. Rights to privacy must be fought and won for all people so no group of citizens may ever be threatened with a denial of its basic freedoms.

Happy 20th anniversary. ▼

Gay Enrollees Sought For Mailing Campaign

The Human Rights Campaign Fund is planning an unprecedented campaign at gay pride events around the country to enroll people in the HRCF Speak Out mail program to Congress. The program—the first of its kind in the gay movement—has met with tremendous response from around the country.

In the last six weeks the program has tripled to almost 12,000 individuals who have pre-authorized messages to their congresspersons.

HRCF canvassers will be at gay and lesbian pride activities in 30-40 cities nationwide including San Francisco. The canvassers will be wearing blue Speak Out T-shirts and have HRCF mailgram forms on hand.

HRCF cautions gay and lesbian pride participants not to confuse the Speak Out campaign with petitions from the New Alliance Party.

NAP, criticized by numerous national and local gay organizations as "opportunistic" and exploitative of the gay community, is attempting to sign up gays in support of its so-called "AIDS Bill of Rights." There is no such

bill pending in Congress at this time.

By signing up for the HRCF Speak Out program, people allow brief, hard-hitting messages to be sent on their behalf to their representatives and senators in Congress. Most recently, HRCF unleashed thousands of mailgrams on the federal AZT subsidy program.

"We may see a vote on the Hate Crimes Statistics Act in mid-July," said Steve Edean, HRCF field division director. "We believe Jesse Helms will attack the bill with a 'hate amendment,' labeling lesbians and gay men a 'threat to the American family.'"

"We need every possible person enrolled in the mailgram program so we can avalanche Congress with mail supporting the bill and opposing Helms' amendment," Edean said.

The messages cost \$2.95 each (minimum of three), and are triggered on short notice to respond to fast-moving legislation. Those enrolling in the program will be billed later.

For more information on the HRCF Speak Out program, call HRCF at (202) 628-4160. ▼

Gay, Lesbian Chorus Preview One Night Only



Members of the gay and lesbian chorus.

More than 250 singers from eight Northern California gay and lesbian choruses will celebrate Gay Pride Week by previewing newly commissioned works by such noted composers as Conrad Susa, Holly Near and Bernice Johnson Reagon. The event, called "A GALA Chorus Preview," is being held one night only, Friday, June 23, at 8 p.m. at Mission High School in San Francisco, 18th and Church streets.

Other commissioned composers featured at the concert in-

clude Paul Patterson and Janice Giteck. The San Francisco preview is the only time Bay Area music lovers can count on hearing these new works; the music will be officially premiered July 8 at the GALA III Festival of Choruses in Seattle, an international event at which 45 choruses will perform. GALA is the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses; festivals are held every three years in major cities, featuring member choruses and new commissions.

"A GALA Chorus Preview," of-

ficially the 11th annual Northern California Gay Musical Celebration, will also mark the first San Francisco appearance of several local gay and lesbian choruses. Ticket prices are \$10 in advance, \$8 seniors and students, and \$12 at the door. Tickets are available at all Headlines stores, A Different Light Bookstore, Word Processing Services of San Francisco, the Pacific Center (Berkeley), the Gifted Gardener (Sacramento), and from chorus members. Charge by phone: STBS/Union Square (552-3656) and BASS (762-BASS). ▼

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

Back to the Future

This Sunday, June 25, we will gather at Castro and Market with a quarter-million of our closest friends to celebrate the 20th anniversary of a ragtag rebellion at a tawdry New York bar called the Stonewall Inn. We will gather to celebrate the community we have birthed; we will gather to celebrate freedom, sexuality, and life itself.

The riot at the Stonewall is now the stuff of disputed legend. A phalanx of drag queens led the revolt, or a couple of them just happened to be on the premises; pennies were hurled at the cops, or were not. Tempers were already short when the police entered the bar—everyone knew of the failed suicide attempt of a young exchange student who had been picked up in a previous bar raid; or perhaps the queens were just upset over the death a few days earlier of Judy Garland. Every gay activist currently over the age of 40 seems to have been on the scene, and, with little provocation, eagerly recounts his or her definitive recollection of the night's events.

What is indisputable, however, is that the fight for gay equality started long before Stonewall. The homophile movement was active in the United States in the years after World War II, and it in turn was building on the astonishing work of the homosexual emancipation movement of pre-war Europe. What we are celebrating is the sudden radicalization of the movement that came to be known as gay liberation. We are celebrating events that most of us would decline to join—riots, and sit-ins, and zaps, imaginative demonstrations that blended anger and humor to good effect. (The Gay Activists Alliance of New York conducted a famous zap against a credit agency whose manager defended the dissemination of uncorroborated sexual histories by remarking, "If it looks like a duck and walks like a duck, it must be a duck.") Activists picketed the firm, dressed as ducks.)

An anniversary is a time to celebrate the past, to remember the good times, to remark on how far we've come, to reflect on tragedy and loss. But it is also a time to look forward, to decide where it is we want to go from here.

Where we want to go is back to the future. It is time to move forward, using the lessons of the past. It is time to re-radicalize ourselves, to follow the example of AIDS activists and not be afraid to use dramatic means toward the end of gay liberation.

Our times have been changed by the AIDS epidemic. What sort of Gay Freedom Day might we otherwise be celebrating? What might have been if the epidemic had not changed the equation? Anti-gay violence might have become the issue of the '80s; sexual liberation, a healthy thing, might have proceeded unencumbered by fear. It is difficult to imagine what might have been because AIDS seems, at times, so inextricably bound up in who we are and what we want. What do we want? For our friends to live, of course. Beyond that: the liberation of the human spirit from any force that impels it to deny its inner truth.

It's time to be clear about the difference between AIDS activism and gay liberation. The AIDS fight is vital in its many forms, but it has little to do with a human emancipation movement. AIDS is a health issue and a human services issue. The fact that most of those who contract it are gay does not make it a gay issue *per se*. The equation AIDS = GAY is a trap set by homophobes. Much has been made of the great numbers of gay men who have come out of the closet in order to rally around AIDS. But the fact that so few of the new gay AIDS activists were active in gay liberation, and the fact that so few of them have branched out to express ongoing vocal concern for non-AIDS issues, leads one to wonder whether they will stick around when this disease disappears.

We will need them, because gay civil rights are by no means won. It is easy to become complacent in San Francisco, where we have become entrenched in the ruling structures of the city; where we have bars, doctors, clergy, and dry-cleaners that are identifiably and proudly gay. Meanwhile, just up the road in Sonoma County, the Board of Supervisors refuses to endorse a *pro forma* proclamation recognizing Lesbian and Gay Pride Week. Over in Concord, crazed zealots calling themselves Christians pander to homophobia and succeed in beating back a law prohibiting discrimination against people with AIDS. In Washington, lawmakers and political bigwigs routinely employ anti-gay bigotry to further their agendas. A Republican Party staffer finds gay-baiting a convenient means of injuring the new Democratic speaker of the House; Senator Jesse Helms, a blight on humanity, causes the Corcoran Gallery to cancel an important exhibit because it contains homoerotic art. And here in gay Mecca, every single day, gay men and lesbians are verbally harassed, physically abused, and quietly denied equal protection under the law.

We gather this weekend to celebrate our advances, but how well off are we, really? The armed forces still drum us out. The courts still snatch away our young. The police still occasionally do violence against us in the places where we choose to meet. Our biological families still denigrate us and demean, and sometimes destroy, our love relationships. Roving gangs still descend on our neighborhoods to intimidate, lynch, and kill. We cannot marry, and in large sections of the city we cannot even safely hold hands with those we love.

Yet we celebrate, because, once upon a time, things were much worse. Then, we shared shame; now, we share a community. Then, cops routinely busted our bars; now, we're slowly working our way up the ranks of the police force.

We have much to be proud of on Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day. But do not be deceived. Much remains to be done on behalf of equality; we are not first-class citizens yet. This little party is far from over. ▼

GUEST OPINION

A Prescription for Healing: Saving San Francisco's AIDS Service "Model"

by Eric E. Rofes, Shanti Project
and Tim Wolfred, San Francisco AIDS Foundation

Over 50 San Francisco non-profit agencies met this week at Shanti Project to spend six hours confronting on major question: Will what has become known as the "San Francisco Model" of AIDS service delivery meet the needs of people with HIV infection in the 1990s?

The meeting was called by community-based organizations because we are seeing significant indications that the "model," which is internationally praised, needs repair. These signs raise additional questions: Does the "model" as developed suit the needs of people of color, IV drug users, women and poor people? Where will the basic resources which fuel the model—volunteers and private contributions—come from in the 1990s? How can the model better respond to the more hopeful treatments becoming available today?

These "macro" issues will be addressed over the next three months in ongoing discussions among community-based organizations. We hope to come away with creative long-term solutions, rather than simply continuing to patch obvious gaps in our system of service delivery. However, it is clear that there are major unaddressed or underaddressed areas of HIV service needs in this city and that an immediate infusion of volunteers and funds is needed.

Additional funds might be available from local government if the Board of Supervisors approves a plan currently before it which would increase fines for parking violators. This would allow parking fines to cover more of the costs related to traffic and parking and would prevent general city funds from covering those services. We are told that between \$3 million and \$4 million of additional revenue would be available in the city budget if this plan is approved.

We strongly want to urge the community to urge the Board of Supervisors to approve this plan because we believe that this \$3-4 million might best be applied to the mayor's three key human-service priorities: AIDS, crack and homelessness. These areas sorely need additional funding, especially since additional support from state and federal sources does not look likely. Additionally, these three priority areas are closely twisted together and, when combined, embody the major social challenge facing San Francisco today.

During our all-day meeting among AIDS organizations, it was clear that additional HIV-related funding would be well spent in several areas: services and treatments for HIV-infected individuals (which would allow them to stay healthy and avoid progressing to AIDS and ARC), needle-exchange services and accompanying treatment and education programs, direct services for people of color and particularly gay men of color, educational campaigns targeting self-identified gay men, residential services for homeless people with AIDS, a range of women-specific HIV services, and additional van services for PWAs.

The additional funding for human services at this time would be an ideal opportunity to shore up services in critical areas and allow us to make a step in beginning to get the model back on the track. Community-based organizations are going to continue to meet and discuss these matters, and we won't look to the government for all the solutions. We would, however, look to local government to continue to be a major partner in a team effort ensuring that HIV-infected people have what they need to stay healthy and, when ill, have the services needed to be cared for with dignity. ▼

LETTERS

Why the Move Against The Vigil?

★ On Friday, June 9, at 4:15 p.m., 35 San Francisco Police appeared at the ARCAIDS Vigil and demanded that members at the information desk start to dismantle the vigil or face arrest. Illegal structures on public land was the basis of a private citizen's complaint. After a couple of phone calls, friends from the gay, lesbian, bisexual and AIDS concerned communities quickly assembled at the vigil; as a result of their support, dialogue suddenly became possible. The vigil continues today.

We wish to publicly express our appreciation to all those who saw and responded to our need. In particular, we would like to thank PWA/SF, ACT UP, Supervisor Britt, Supervisor Hallinan, Supervisor Hongisto, Jean Harris, T.J. Anthony, John Wahl, John Crew (ACLU) and Pat Norman whose involvement—empowered by several hundred others—opened discussions which resulted in the direct involvement of the mayor's office and a temporary resolution of the problem.

On Monday at the Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisor Hallinan introduced a motion which seeks help from the city attorney for enacting effective protection for the vigil. All supervisors present expressed their support for the vigil and for his motion. We thank the board for the formal extension of their protection and to the mayor for his protection until the board can formally act.

Two points still need clarification: (1) why was no information about this problem shared with the board and (2) what was the process by which a decision was made to move against the vigil? Larry Bush of the mayor's office stated that no move against the vigil was to have occurred until a final legal opinion by the city attorney was given to the mayor and he made a decision. That opinion has yet to be finalized, no order was issued by the mayor, but there was an action against the vigil. Larry said that he was interested in finding out how that occurred. We share his interest.

We are thankful for the support of the Board of Supervisors and the mayor and look forward to continuing our work.

Harvey Maurer, Secretary
ARC/AIDS Vigil
San Francisco

Love It or Leave It

★ Although I am not one who usually sends protest letters, I feel compelled to react to what I consider to be one of the most despicable, uncalled for and downright rotten acts I have ever heard of. I refer to the action of Mr. Walter Caplan this week and his attempt to close the AIDS Vigil.

If Mr. Caplan has such a desire to make "citizen's" arrests, why doesn't he go to the areas of the city where it might do some good, those areas where there are drug pushers and other undesirables?

In a city which has shown such love, compassion and caring for the less fortunate, like AIDS sufferers, homeless, etc., this is totally unacceptable and certainly not the behavior of a "citizen" of San Francisco or any other city.

I sincerely hope there are not too many more "Caplans" waiting to pounce on those whose only "crime" is trying to bring attention to a desperate situation and attempting to do something about it.

One day in the near future, I pray, they will fold their tents and move away, on their own, when AIDS is finally conquered and the nightmare is over. Until then, Mr. Caplan, leave 'em alone! If you don't like them there and can't stand to see them—YOU move!

W. Anderson
San Francisco

Bury the Myths

★ In a recent *Chronicle* article concerning the "crumbling" of San Francisco's AIDS care network, that old myth that all white gay men are well-off financially was perpetuated. "A successful interior designer" can get a Shanti volunteer; "I am not some Yuppie living in the Castro," and so forth.

Where are these men? My friends, and myself, are all working-men. Blue collar or white collar. Most of us living from paycheck to paycheck, struggling to pay our exorbitant rents. No tax breaks because we aren't allowed to marry our partners. Inflation eroding our purchasing power, the same as for all Americans.

While attending a volunteer orientation for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation recently, it occurred to me that we were there because the federal government has abandoned us, the people. This is war. We need all the resources of this great nation to fight AIDS. However, we have allowed the homophobes to capture the issue, and people will continue to die until the citizens of this nation stop acting like sheep and demand federal involvement in this species-threatening crisis.

Homophobia in the black and Latino communities

is killing their people by neglect. How can the so-called "leaders" of those communities live with themselves?

But, hey, it's only queers and druggies dying. Right?

Timothy Shields
San Francisco

Thanks

★ A safe and happy Gay Pride Day!

To all who have made it possible for us to continue to help people with AIDS and disabling ARC who are in immediate financial need, we thank you.

The Board of Directors,
AIDS Emergency Fund
San Francisco

Unimportant Issues

★ I am reluctant to give this discussion of too much cologne, whether one is in uniform or not, one is too old, or God forbid, has grey hair, heavy, bra-less females; the dignity of a response, but this intolerance keeps raising its ugly head in articles to the editor and in cartoons. As we have learned from history, by pointing out supposed defects in one another, we sow the seeds of genocide, until one day, one is standing all alone, having eliminated everyone for one defect or another. Surely we should all strive for perfection, and we should look for that perfection in others. Our community seems to dwell on the opposite.

As members of one of the most oppressed groups in civilization, it seems that we should learn from our experiences, but the lesson seems lost. I expected the freedom and joy of being an individual on my own terms and would learn earn the respect of my brothers and sisters when I moved into the Bay Area. Alas, 'twas not to be so. Instead of respect for one's individuality and integrity, I have run into intolerance for anything that does not conform to some lopsided image of the macho male. One must not wear too much cologne, be too swish, be out of uniform in certain bars, be over 35 years old, and certainly not express any opinion that will rock the corporate boat.

I keep running up against prejudice and intolerance in our own community directed against our own members. If we are to demand the acceptance of the straight world, we will have to accept each other first. How can we demand equal rights when we express so much downright dislike to our own members? How can anyone take us seriously when we express such hostility about the trivia in our own house? We all have the right to exist, and we should be able to support one another regardless of whether we approve of the way one dresses. Divergence is the strength of any community. Yea, this country, the freest in the world, thrives on it.

One does not have to accept all of the divergence our community represents, but we must defend it in a democracy under which we have reaped so many benefits. We also have to accept its responsibilities of tolerance and mutual support. There are more vital issues to get involved with in our community. We must not trivialize one another nor overlook the more important issues of support and tolerance. We trivialize ourselves by dwelling on the superficial; surely we have deeper issues than these to concern ourselves with.

Marc Porrovecchio
San Leandro

Absolute Sovereigns

★ "Absolute Sovereignty of the Human Body" is the theme of Stonewall Gay Democratic Club's Freedom Day parade contingent this year.

Let us recognize and respect the individual's rights and responsibilities over her/his body—and let us begin to think of this in terms of a constitutional amendment. Specifically, we believe each individual should be guaranteed:

- the right to reproductive choice,
- the right to choose experimental drugs,
- the right of privacy,
- the right of consenting adults,
- the right to choose to die, and
- the right to access to medical care.

Stonewall Gay Democratic Club is proud to carry this banner of individual freedom—and clearly demonstrate that the issues of women and the issue of men are not merely parallel, they are one and the same.

We invite everyone to march with us in the parade in celebration of Stonewall's 20th anniversary, and our club's 15th anniversary.

Richmond Young, president, and the
Members of Stonewall Gay Democratic
Club



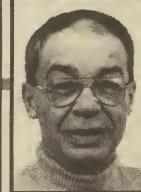
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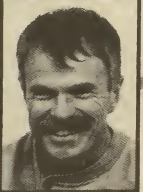
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Bravo, SFPD!

★ So many times I have heard negative stories about the way the San Francisco police have treated our community. Has anyone ever stopped to think about how much support our community has gotten from them? I didn't. Until Tuesday night, June 6.

I was coming home from work on the subway at about 8:45 p.m. I was really feeling good about this new city in which I live. A man got on the car I was riding in with a boxful of baby rabbits and one big one. What occurred was amazing. Everyone in the car previously sitting there with blank looks on their faces, being careful not to make eye contact with each other, were all of a sudden smiling at the bunnies. Then they started smiling at each other and talking! The whole mood in the car changed from the usual coldness to warm and friendly. A "sense of commonness prevailed." All because of a box of rabbits! Amazing! I was lost to my head, thinking about what happened and how nice it was.

The train stopped at Castro, I got off and started heading up the stairs. In front of me I could see two shaved heads bobbing up and down. Then I got a full view. They were wearing green flight jackets and their pants were tucked into their black army boots. Instantly I thought, "skinheads," then, I thought, "No, they're just fashion victims." Until we reached the street.

They started ripping down posters and anything on the walls of the B of A building that said "gay" on them. I was terrified. Then I watched them slam into people who were walking in the opposite direction. I felt so powerless and afraid. All I could see in my mind was some poor victim getting beat up or even killed because two ignorant idiots thought it would be fun to get rid of another "queer." I heard statements like that, and "fucking queers" and "kill fags" coming out of their mouths.

The amazing thing was that they were with their girlfriends. Two little punker girls who are always sitting on Castro Street or in front of Cala, begging for money. I've seen people in our community hand those girls money. And they brought their skinhead boyfriends into the neighborhood! I was furious!

I went on to my favorite after-work hangout, a juice bar on 18th Street. I told the guys at the bar what happened and why I was so freaked out. One said, "So call the police," then another said, "Why? They won't do anything anyway." The conversation dropped after that and the subject was changed.

That was pretty discouraging, but I kept thinking about what could happen to someone innocent and put myself in their shoes. I called the police. And guess what? The voice on the other end of the line was kind and understanding. The officer took my information, asked me if I was OK, and said he would send someone out. Within 10 minutes there was a patrol car driving around the block.

I met my lover, Jim, on the corner of 18th and Castro. We kissed as usual and held hands on the way to dinner. As we were walking, I noticed again two shaved heads in the distance getting closer. My heart sank and I wondered where the police were. I said to Jim, "Here they come." I wanted to let go of his hand, but I didn't. I just held on a little tighter. Our eyes met with theirs, they passed and not a word was said. They looked like they wanted to kill us but instead walked by quickly and quietly. I couldn't figure out why. Then I found out why. About 10 paces behind them was one of San Francisco's finest. I said, "It's great to see you tonight!" He gave me a reassuring look and said, "Thank you." It meant something to him and a lot to me.

Two hours later, Jim and I walked through the neighborhood on our way home from dinner. There was no sign of the skinheads, but we did see two patrol cars, one parked and one moving about slowly. I can't tell you how good it felt to be able to reach out in fear and have the police there to respond and protect. I would like to thank the SFPD for being there. They deserve credit where credit is due, and our support as a community.

I feel that the attitude like the one of the man in the bar who said, "Why bother," is an attitude that keeps people afraid and alone. I wish we could be supportive and look after one another. Not just to friends or ex's, or only people we know, but to others in our community. Even if we don't know them, a smile, just a smile to someone passing you on the street can be supportive and make another and yourself feel good!

Ken Russo
San Francisco

New Generation Doing Its Part

★ Why does the gay press insist on headlining such items as "Clash of Generations"? As part of this "new generation," I am constantly frustrated by the gay press attempting to create some bad feelings between the mature gay community and the new generation.

The article your paper published concerning the new Crew parties was welcomed coverage, as our "new generation" is overlooked constantly by straight and gay press. Nothing in the article ap-

peared to imply any type of "clash" of generations. Why then do you insist on creating a clash that does not really exist? Does it sell more papers? Are you trying to sensationalize a simple story so our new generation will pick up your tabloid?

As the president of a newly formed gay fraternity at San Francisco State University, I, along with the other members of the fraternity, will be doing much community work in the coming years. We plan on helping both AIDS organizations and gay youth organizations. I can only hope that our stories get some front-page billing—just as big, just as bright. Perhaps it could read, "New Generation Doing Its Part Again?"

I agree that our "new generation" may seem immature, simple, and apathetic towards politics at times, but one must remember that we are coming out of the closet at a much younger age (thanks to the older generation), and time spent participating in flighty social endeavors seems of the utmost importance during these "gay formative years." Every generation of gay men and women is participating in some frivolous socializing, but it seems that the younger generation catches the heat when they decide to have a party. Why is our socializing any different from the socializing the older generation still participates in?

I hope the gay press does not continue to neglect reporting on the numbers of the "new generation" that are involved in ACT UP, Shanti Project, lesbian/gay alliances at state or city colleges, marching in the parades, speaking at forums, marching in vigils, and making a real effort to get involved in the gay community.

The more the gay press displays the "new generation" as flighty and uncaring towards the rest of the gay community, the closer we will become to the picture being drawn of us.

We are the next generation, we'll be the ones to bear the cross of our sexuality, so please stop trying to tell everyone that we are uncaring, apathetic, and clashing with our older brothers and sisters. We are all family, so let's stop judging one another.

David Crowther Jr.
San Francisco

The Boycott Process

★ I direct this letter to Gary Ostrander, Michael Echenrode and Lee Harrington, whose recent letters discuss boycott issues, specifically Donna Summer. And I support Michael Echenrode. The boycott process is the *only* power I have as an individual, other than the voting booth. I do follow my heart and my feelings and my intellect, and they all tell me: *don't support the enemy*.

Donna Summer's cruel remarks are not "alleged" Mr. Harrington. They are fact. I wish I had a copy of the video in question. To my knowledge, she has not apologized for the tirade, and even if she did, her motivations would be greed, not sympathy or understanding. If her career was hurt (and by God, I hope it was), it only made a small dent because, as usual, the rich and therefore powerful can say and do as they wish with little consequence.

You see, I don't have many forums to express myself. That's why the "Letters to the Editor" of *Bay Area Reporter* is my favorite part. Donna Summer, Eddie Murphy, Guns 'n Roses, Kellogg's, Coors, etc., all have national and international exposure. They can influence people, especially the young. If Donna Summer kept her personal beliefs to herself (and yes, she has a right to her opinion just like everyone else), instead of incorporating them into her business life, she would not be a controversy today.

I'm tired of turning the other cheek. I've turned it 1,000 times in my life but *no more*. What's next, Gary and Lee? If Hitler were alive today, would you ask every Jew to invite him to every bar mitzvah out of "forgiveness"? Let's invite Anita Bryant to be our guest speaker at the Gay Pride celebration. How about Eddie Murphy being our stand-up comic? He can make some more jokes about PWAs. And Kellogg's could serve breakfast, featuring Nut ' Honey, but only if they can include some guns too. Guns 'n Roses could sing one of their little bigoted ditties and maybe you two could give them all a special award.

There are too many gays these days, particularly the young, who take a lot for granted, but the naivete is disturbing. Let's face it. Politics are a part of living, and politics enter every facet of our lives, no matter how much some people may want to block it from their minds.

Personally, I will *never* patronize any establishment, gay or straight, that promotes and publicizes these bigots. Many times I have heard a gay establishment play a Donna Summer record and complained. Ninety percent of the time, the record was stopped. For the other 10 percent, I, and my friends, would leave, never to enter again. My suggestion to Mr. Harrington is to check the lightbulb in his closet. . . . I think it has burned out!

Dean Tomich
San Jose

Acting Up

★ This June 25 we will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, an event that marked a new era in gay liberation that had continued to be fought by gay men and women throughout the 1970s and '80s. Although I was only nine years old at the time of the Stonewall Riots, I feel a real connection to those courageous few who fought back in June of 1969. I also feel that I, and other gay men and women my age or younger, have an enormous responsibility to carry the spirit of Stonewall through the '90s and beyond. A large part of this responsibility involves fighting for our lives against the AIDS epidemic.

Because of homophobia, sexism, and racism evident in the way our government and health institutions have handled the epidemic thus far, it is imperative we stand together against those who feel that we are an expendable segment of society. The state and federal government, drug companies, and insurance companies continue to respond to the epidemic with nothing more than lip service, greed, and finger-pointing. Funds continue to be withheld or misallocated, treatment denied, testing hampered by bureaucracy and indifference; and the medical, social and educational services remain woefully inadequate due to endless political bickering and moralizing.

In the spirit of Stonewall, I urge all people, especially younger gay men and women, to join in the fight for gay, lesbian and bisexual liberation and to get involved in the fight against AIDS. One way to get involved in the fight against AIDS is to get involved with ACT UP/SF (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power/San Francisco). ACT UP is a very diverse group of people who are committed to direct action to end the AIDS epidemic. ACT UP/SF meets every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the MCC church (150 Eureka in the Castro), and our events and information line phone number is 563-0724.

If you want to get involved with the efforts of ACT UP to end the AIDS epidemic, a good way to start is to join the ACT UP/SF contingent in this year's Gay and Lesbian Freedom Day Parade. A large and boisterous ACT UP contingent in this year's parade will show the community and the world that we will no longer be silent while people continue to die because of the criminal negligence of those in control of the wealthiest country in the world. For more information, call ACT UP at 563-0724.

J. Patrick Leach
San Francisco

A Life-Saving Idea

★ In addition to all the achievements cited in your obituary (*Bay Area Reporter*, June 1) of Bill Paul, he should be credited as the person who inspired the creation of the "bleach outreach" program for IV drug users.

In December 1984, Bill had been advising Dr. Harvey Feldman and me in our research studies on AIDS and drug abuse. Bill said to me, "It would help if we could give out little tubes of disinfectant for the IV users to have handy to clean their works, in the way that people do for their contact lenses." We didn't take action on his idea until the spring of 1986, when—together with Drs. Pat Biernacki and John Watters—we hit on the notion of putting bleach in one-ounce plastic bottles and employing "street-wise" people to distribute them, along with condoms and AIDS education, to the IVUDs.

This outreach program has now been operating for more than three years, as the "MidCity Consortium to Combat AIDS." It looks as if most of the city's IVUDs now bleach their works when they share. Our program has been copied by dozens of other communities in the U.S. and abroad. It is likely that tens of thousands of people have been saved from HIV infection—all because of an idea that sprang from the ever-fertile imagination of Bill Paul.

God, how we will miss him!

John Newmeyer, Ph.D.
Epidemiologist,
Haight-Ashbury Free Clinic
San Francisco

Why a Minimum Pledge?

★ J. Barbiery's point regarding confusing pledge forms for the AIDS Bike-a-Thon is well-taken (Letters, May 26). An event of this size should provide lucid, inoffensive instructions. But let's take this one step further.

Why is there any kind of minimum pledge at all? I grow weary of charity events that make the donor/participant feel like a prison inmate, subjected to a dozen petty restrictions.

The Bike-a-Thon stood only to lose by excluding those who might be unable to gather \$100 in pledges but who sincerely wanted to help. These might include hundreds—or thousands—of well-intentioned children (Remember children and bicycles? Inseparable at best), representing donations the Bike-a-Thon would never see, because individually none of them could hope to amass the minimum pledge

total. Collectively, however, we could be talking about a loss of several thousand dollars, or much more—who can say?

That's not smart. Nobody can tell me the "paperwork" for small pledges is prohibitive. And if it's the cost of souvenir T-shirts (or some other symbolic reward for participation) that is the excuse for the \$100 minimum, then make it a button or something similar for smaller pledges. But don't just price people out—and maybe even alienate them in the process. Not every well-meaning citizen has access to five well-meaning friends willing to part with \$20 each.

Paul Gonzales
San Francisco

Stupid and Suicidal

★ Local DJ Gary Ostrander (June 8), responding to a letter protesting the playing of Donna Summer records in our bars, does some pretty strange mind-aerobics to justify his position. The facts, however, are unchanged.

Donna Summer has publicly stated that gays get AIDS because we are sinful. *She has never retracted that statement.* Her public statement—like that of any famous person—has more impact than the statement of an ordinary person. At the very least, by confirming and amplifying a prejudiced attitude, Summer's statement has done its bit to encourage gay-bashing and AIDS-related discrimination. It has thus also played a part in slowing the search for a cure. That's a hell of a lot more than "hurting our feelings," Gary.

By pushing a cure that much farther away, Summer will have helped to let a certain number of people die who would otherwise survive. In effect, Donna Summer will have killed people with her vicious remark. Why anyone should forgive her for that, especially when she has never shown any remorse for her statement—is beyond logic.

Finally, it is not appropriate to talk about degrees of evil here—to absolve Donna Summer because people like Jesse Helms are worse. *Anyone* who says gay people "deserve" AIDS is killing us. Letting Donna Summer make money from us, when we can prevent it so easily, is stupid and suicidal.

Peter Almanetti
San Francisco

Caring for the Vulnerable

★ Thank you for your article, "Suffer the Children," in the June 8 issue.

Although I closely followed the Steven Stayner story back in 1980 when it broke, I was deeply moved by the TV movie. I too was concerned about what negative reinforcement the story would have on straight America about gays. But it is a phenomenal story, and it deserved to be told. Fortunately, the producers did not present any anti-gay message.

Your point on Iain Brown is also well taken. Caring for our community's most vulnerable members is crucial. I want to do something for gay youth, homeless and/or confused, but I am uncertain how it can be done without motives being misunderstood, as you suggest.

Thanks again!

Bruce Pettit
San Francisco

Connie-Mania

★ Thanks so much for your delightful coverage of Connie Francis. The pictures and articles were great. Connie has made the most stunning comeback in show business history, as all the fans at the Circle Star (sold out—nearly 4,000 people) and the Eagle can tell you. "Connie-Mania" follows her wherever she goes. But the best news of all is Connie's voice is as good as ever!

Connie deeply appreciates her many gay fans. Your salute to Connie will never be forgotten!

Jonathan A. Ross
Sunnyvale

Calling All Artists

★ This is an open invitation to all professional gay and lesbian artists who live in the Bay Area.

I would like there to be a group of us to represent the gay community as artists. There are many things we could do, such as exhibiting regularly with other gay artists, helping out on projects in the community where visual art could be used, and be a presence in this wonderfully creative community which has so many artists.

If this sounds like something you want to be a part of, please call me at 863-0212.

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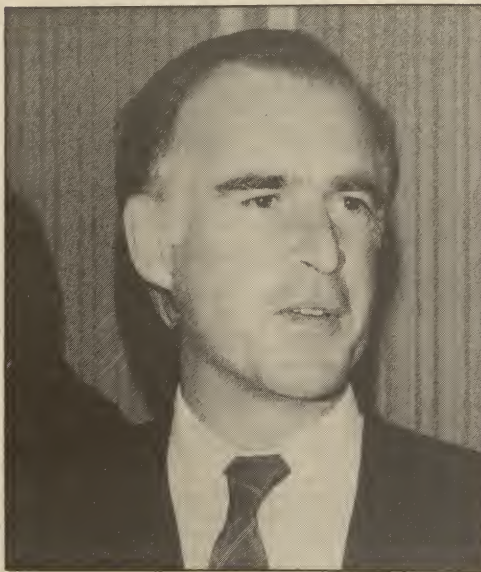


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Wayne Friday

Chairman Jerry Brown



State Democratic Party Chairman Jerry Brown.

(Photo: Rink)

It has been nearly four months since Jerry Brown's celebrated re-entry into California politics, and the new party chairman seems to be getting mixed reviews on his performance in his new job. Brown, a two-term governor and twice a Democratic candidate for president before losing a race for the U.S. Senate to Republican Pete Wilson in 1982, claims to be making quiet, genuine achievements in his quest to rebuild the state Democratic Party.

Meeting last week in San Bernardino with some 200 party leaders, the party's governing executive board, the controversial Brown admitted that he has, of course, not won over all his critical doubters, but insists he is making impressive headway in getting the state party back on the road to winning state elections—particularly the governorship. Brown claims he has raised more than \$700,000 so far, more than any other chairperson before him in such a short time.

In his attempt to strengthen the state party, Brown has opened a huge statewide office in San Francisco's South of Market area, and has hired a staff of 15, including an executive director, a statewide field director and a fundraising team. He is in the process of hiring a political director.

While many Democrats hail the energy that the former gov-

ernor is putting into his job, he is not without his critics. An important group of rich and well-connected party activists, including San Francisco financier Water Shoreinstein, and Bruce Lee, director of the United Auto Workers Western region, have split off from the statewide party organization and are pursuing their own rump party group, called "Agenda for the '90s," to raise money and register Democratic voters. Another such group, independent of Brown, is reportedly forming in San Jose.

"From what I hear," the [Brown] critics were right," Assemblyman Richard Katz, a powerful legislator, said recently. Katz is one of a new breed of Democratic party moderates who fear that Brown strikes the wrong image for a changing party, saying that he frequently hears Brown has become too closely identified with liberal Assemblyman Tom Hayden and his supporters, noting the appointment of Hayden political organizer Cathy Calfo as the new state executive director of the party.

Chairman Brown has, however, seemingly won over some former critics, notably Attorney General John Van de Kamp, a leading candidate for the party gubernatorial nomination next year. Van de Kamp, who was publicly cool to Brown being chosen party leader only months ago, now says that Brown has "set a tone that is just about right; this

is not something that can be built in a day."

Former San Francisco mayor Dianne Feinstein, the acknowledged front-runner for the Democratic party governor's nomination, could not be reached for her impression of the new state chair, but Feinstein allies note her long-time personal friendship with the former governor and suggest that the former mayor is supportive of Brown's leadership.

Locally, county Democratic Chairperson Carole Migden praised Brown, noting that since he took over the party reins "more gays and lesbians have been appointed to important party committees like the Credentials and Platform committees than in any time I can remember."

While Brown admits that he is anxious to get the job of rebuilding the party under way, he insists he is moving slowly and deliberately, and only after he proves that he can be an effective fundraiser. "We have built the foundation of an effective political organization—it's big... it's challenging... there is an opportunity for great leadership skills which I hope to prove I have," he said. Brown insists he will prove he has such leadership by building up the party treasury and voter rolls, and even his former critics are now grudgingly admitting the former governor seems to be on the right track.

Brown, who does not deny he harbors further elective hopes, knows that his achievements as party chair, or lack of same, will be the key to a future political career. I think Democrats should

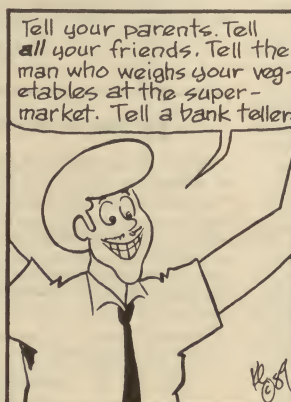
(Continued on page 31)



Sen. Pete Wilson.

(Photo: Rink)

MURPHY'S MANOR



by Kurt Erichsen

A Stonewall Retrospective

Macon, Georgia, is the armpit of the South. Sultry, hot and humid it is no place to spend the summer. Yet that's exactly where I spent the summer of 1969, the year of the Stonewall Rebellion, studying French in a special summer school for high-school students while drag queens and others protested decades of oppression in New York City.

Wesleyan College, where I joined 300 other 17-year-old scholars from across the state, is renowned for its architecture, its magnolias, and its most famous graduate, Madame Chiang Kai-shek. But mostly I remember the friends I made—Reuben, an incipient hippie who couldn't wait to escape his fundamentalist parents by moving to San Francisco; Suzanne, a free-spirited artist who did her best to introduce me to the joys of heterosexuality; and Jay, a sweet-natured football player with whom I fell in love.

I was too young, alas, to realize I was in love with Jay. Or perhaps I was too afraid. The school's only obvious homosexual, after all, was a notorious queen named Tommy, who used to dance the Charleston in a '20s-style bathing suit at the head of the dormitory stairs for all the world to see. I fled in terror whenever Tommy, interrupting his Ruby Keeler fantasies, winked conspiratorially at me—which he did with alarming regularity. Condemnation as a faggot, suspicion, or even guilt by association, was something I could not afford.

Whether or not I actually heard about the riots in Greenwich Village that summer I don't recall. Of more immediate concern in 1969, at least to the general public, was the first manned landing on the moon, which I watched on television one night after performing the red, white and blue musical extravaganza, "The Testament of Freedom," with the Men's Chorus that afternoon. Patriotism was big that summer—but not gay liberation.

It is likely that I heard about the riots when I returned to Atlanta, my home, that fall, but whether my memories are real or invented I cannot say. Neither can I say when Stonewall began to affect me personally. Perhaps it was during my senior year, when Mr. Yates, the "bachelor" English teacher, assigned *Tea and Sympathy* in English class. To this day Mr. Yates maintains that afterward I thanked him for the assignment by declaring, "Now people will understand what it's like."

What *what* was like? Gay life? How would I have known? I didn't come out until 1972. In the meantime, the sense of oppression that gay people had felt for centuries was something I knew all too well—until the breath of freedom that was sweeping the nation at last blew my way, enabling me, at age 20, to recognize, accept and respect the thing I had feared so long—my own sexual nature.

▽ ▽ ▽

To be a part of those early years of gay liberation was a heady, exhilarating experience. Because we knew little of early pioneers in the homosexual emancipation movement, such as John Addington Symonds and Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld, we thought we were the first

homosexuals since the ancient Greeks to proclaim our right to live and love as we saw fit. Following in the footsteps of blacks and women, we became the new vanguard of a great historical movement—a people whose time had come.

True, I played little part in that movement personally, for I lived far from the centers of emerging gay culture—New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles—and I wasn't yet willing to sacrifice other important goals simply to

be gay. "To be gay," you see, was an overriding, all-consuming passion in those days, one which often necessitated the abandonment—or at least the subjugation—of home, family and career. I wanted to finish college first, then teach, perhaps travel. Later, I thought, there would be time to lead an intense gay life.

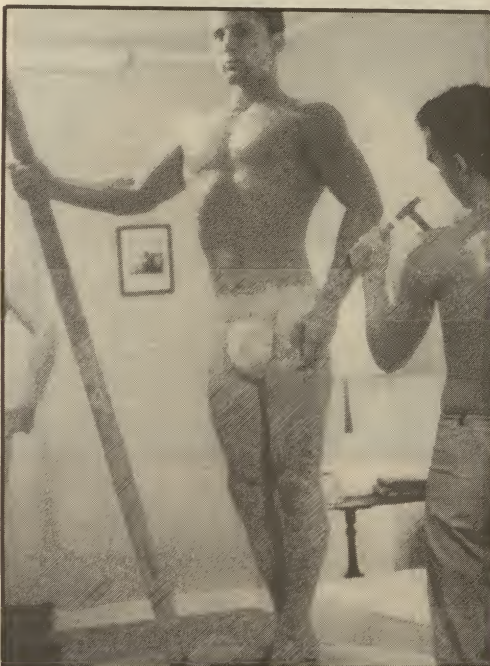
Voluntarily trapped in the provinces, I nevertheless shared in the excitement of the movement and benefitted from its achievements. When prominent

gay people came out publicly or when cities passed gay-rights bills, I cheered. When homophobes denounced us or thugs attacked us, I choked with rage. I found out about these things the only way I could—through gay newspapers, visits to other cities and letters to friends.

Meanwhile, I pursued my own goals and desires.

Mainly I wanted what so many others wanted then and now—to fall in love and live happily ever after. I was told when I first came out that it would never happen. Without the blessings of church,

(Continued on page 24)



BI + CEPS Celebration

BI + CEPS, a high-energy dance, will be held at the San Francisco Mart, 875 Stevenson St., on June 24 from 10 p.m.-4 a.m. Film clips from last year's Lesbian and Gay Film Festival *Days of Greek Gods* (above) will be shown. The Erratic Erotic Go-Go Dancers will also be featured.



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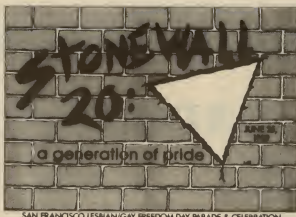
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by Allen White

When T.J. Anthony arrived in San Francisco three years ago he said, "most people ignored me." Today, T.J. Anthony has emerged as one of San Francisco's most passionate gay-rights activists.

Last year he helped lead a number of pickets against Sen. Pete Wilson in Chinatown. During rush-hour traffic Anthony was on Grant Avenue screaming himself hoarse as he yelled to make Wilson accountable. It is part of the style of politics for Anthony.

"I think that I have been around enough to know at what point you push the button, at what point you sit back, at what point you listen and talk. When Wilson came to town it was time to push buttons and raise voices, and that's what we did. I think Pete Wilson had some understanding he could not slice off parts of our community and get this election, and he didn't. You know, more than 90 percent of the gay community voted for his opponent."

He believes that Wilson is an enemy of the gay community.

"His record is so unacceptable. It is so cruel in its content that some of us were prepared to be visible, outspoken and clear that we're not following any line that anyone would devise. I think it was very important for us to let politicians know when they fuck us over and that is not acceptable, and we are going to confront them directly on those issues. We are a better community when we do it. We have better credibility when we do it."

That is just one of his political battles since coming to San Francisco. The first thing he did after moving here was to go to work on the Britt for Congress campaign.

Certainly not the bashful type, Anthony said, "When I first came here I was literally ignored. I couldn't get information on membership from either the Alice B. Toklas or the Harvey Milk Club. I would leave messages on machines and never get an answer."

Another problem for him, he believes, was because he looked so young.

"There was a desire to do something, but people wouldn't take me seriously. Three years ago I looked very, very young, and people took me as just very young. Naturally, people were very cautious," he said.

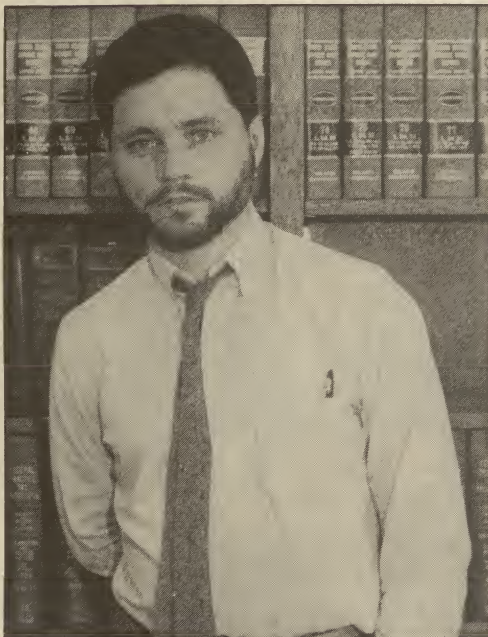
What happened is he ended up working on the campaign against the Bork Supreme Court nomination.

"I thought, well this is something to work on. I organized the Northern California Coalition against Bork and founded the students campaign against Bork."

"Then," he said, "I got plugged into the Coalition for Civil Rights, and they invited me into the organization, which is a coalition of 85 civil-rights groups. Then I got into gay groups."

He went on to help found the Feminist Men's Alliance because, he says, "We see a close proximity between the issues of the lesbian/gay community and the feminist issues. So it was a natural way for people who are committed to changing people's

Gay Rights Activist Knows When to Choose His Battles



T.J. Anthony.

(Photo: S. Savage)

attitudes that are based on gender distinctions."

An offshoot of that endeavor is the group Men Who Care About Women's Lives. Last Sunday he helped pull together hundreds of people to march. It has become one of the largest gay organizations in the area with a goal to help end discrimination against women.

Anthony can appear very impatient out of a strong desire to see results.

"I have no patience for injustice, and I have no patience for denial of truth at any point," he said. "I have no patience for politicians that hold us back, nor do I have patience for people in our own community who would hold us back. I feel extremely passionate about the rights of our community and our struggle for inclusion in equal aspects of society, and I am not one to surrender my belief or my passion

because it's the in thing to do, it's not going to happen."

Earlier this year he was outraged about a decision by Mayor Art Agnos to create a Task Force on AIDS and not name a gay religious person to the panel.

"The fact of the matter is the mayor's commission, in my estimation, failed to be conscious of the lesbian/gay religious community by having three straight ministers on a panel dealing with life and death principally affecting gay and bisexual men. I thought it showed insensitivity to the lives of people with AIDS."

"I do not think we should be the enemy. I think there are enough problems and there are enough solutions and the diversity of our community is so great that we should all be able to achieve some sense of understanding. I have respected the integrity of each person in our community. I would like to think

that every gay man and lesbian has had to struggle in many, many ways to achieve whatever station they are in their lives in ways that straight people never have to struggle. So, I would never engage in this savagery. I think that instead of brutalizing each other we need to support each other. I would hope that no one in this community is compromising themselves or their community for any person, or any job or on commissions."

Today, Anthony works with Supervisor Richard Hongisto.

"Richard Hongisto is clearly committed to supporting this community. He is truly a friend, and he has made it very clear I should continue my advocacy work. Now, before I got this job, I was working on gay-rights issues, civil rights, women's issues and now I am working on other issues like housing."

Today when there is a problem, he acknowledges that he no longer is taken for granted. "They return my calls now," he said. "I think everyone understands that I am an advocate, that is what I am."

Speaking of San Francisco's lesbian/gay community he said, "Politically I think we have to all understand that there are limits to our collective power and limits to what we can achieve. I think we have to understand, once and for all, that no one is going to hand us power. No one ever surrenders power once they have it, and the straight community is not going to surrender political offices to us just because we are nice and have been loyal voters for years. I think we are going to all have to submerge our personalities, our differences, even our politics to get people elected to some of these offices. I think these polls that say one out of eight people are not going to vote for a gay candidate, no matter who they are. It is in our interest to try and achieve some greater power. I think the political influence of the gay community is fragile. It is not as substantial as we would like to believe or as it could be."

"Today," Anthony said, "They don't ignore me anymore." ▼



(Photo: Barbara J. Maggiani)

STONEWALL 20:
a generation of pride

JUNE 28, 1990

SAN FRANCISCO LESBIAN/GAY FREEDOM DAY IN BLVD. & CALIFORNIA ST.



Lesbians of Color Gay Pride Dance: "Hot Colors at Colors" is being sponsored by the Latina Caucus, the Nia Collective of Black Lesbians and Gay American Indians. This hot dance, complete with guest DJs and a raffle, will be held at Scooters on Fourth Street between Market and Mission.

Performer Jill Shaat will be showcased at the Artemis Cafe, 1199 Valencia St., this evening beginning at 8 p.m. Call 821-0232 for more information.

The Blazing Redheads bring

Female Trouble, an alternative rock music club for women, is open every Wednesday night at 9 p.m. This week's featured performers include Tammy Why-Not and the Bushwackers with ex-Contraction, Kathy Peck. 1821 Haight St. ▼



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Effort Underway To Protect Vigil



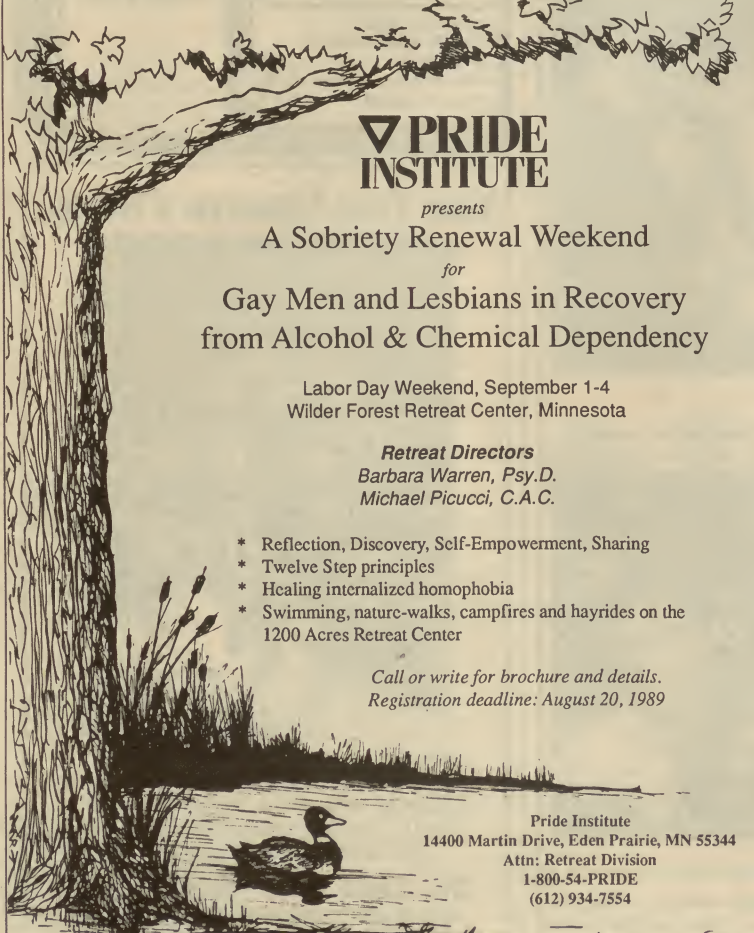
Members of the ARC/AIDS Vigil after the unsuccessful attempt to evict it from United Nations Plaza.

(Photo: Rink)

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by Dennis Conkin

The gay attorney who apparently tried but failed to have the ARCAIDS Vigil evicted last Friday, afternoon, June 9, met with the city's chief administrative officer to complain about the conditions in United Nations Plaza the afternoon before the police action at the site, the *Bay Area Reporter* has learned.

Although Rudy Nothenberg, chief administrative officer, acknowledges that he is "not pleased" with the homeless situation in the Civic Center area, he says he told attorney Walter Caplan that he wasn't going to do anything about his complaint. Nothenberg said Caplan wanted him to erect barricades around the raised grassy areas of the plaza.

"My understanding is that the city supports the ARCAIDS Vigil and that the mayor is trying to do something about the homeless problem," Nothenberg told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

According to Jean Harris, an aide to Supervisor Harry Britt, the city attorney's office is developing legislation to protect the vigil's presence at the plaza.

Nothenberg, appointed chief administrative officer by former Mayor Dianne Feinstein, serves a 10-year fixed term. In addition to his budget responsibilities, he controls the Convention and Visitors Bureau, which has expressed grave concern about the economic impact from the potential loss of convention and tourist trade due to the homeless crisis.

Brooks Hall and Civic Auditorium, used for conventions and conferences, are in the middle of the homeless zone in the Civic Center area.

Several weeks ago, Nothenberg received a flurry of press attention over a controversial decision to spend approximately \$80,000 to fence in a service entrance at Brooks Hall because homeless people had camped in its loading area, leaving the site littered with refuse.

City janitors have also complained of human waste in the Civic Center because homeless people, lacking access to toilets, urinate and defecate in the street.

Two days after the ARCAIDS Vigil incident, the mayor's office installed four portable toilets in the olive groves across from City Hall as the first part of a plan addressing the homeless problem in the Civic Center area.

Tenderloin homeless activists, many of them gay, point out that plan was originally to have begun the same weekend. Like the vigil eviction, it was delayed in the middle of enforcement. The mayor's office called the timing "coincidental," saying the homeless plan needed more "community input." It is expected to be implemented shortly.

Gay leaders have criticized Gayle Orr-Smith, deputy mayor for public safety, and other Agnos staffers for not seeking community input from the ARCAIDS Vigil leadership or contacting members of the Board of Supervisors before the attempted eviction.

The mayor's office learned of Caplan's threat to force arrests of the vigil residents last Thursday afternoon. On Friday, June 9, a decision was reached between the mayor's office, the city attorney's office and the chief of police that the only recourse was to enforce eviction of the vigil based on Caplan's complaint.

The eviction was averted, however, when Agnos directed police to simply give the vigil residents notice that they had been detained and released, following consultation with John Crew, an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union.

According to vigil residents and Tenderloin homeless activists, Caplan's treatment of the homeless living in the plaza has been a source of concern in the Tenderloin for over six months.

Bill Hirsh, an attorney-member of the civil rights committee of the Coalition of Homeless Service Providers, acknowledged that complaints had been made to his committee about Caplan's behavior.

Hunt, a former employee of Caplan, said, "When I was an employee of his, he used to ask me to be a bodyguard and protect him while he turned on the sprinklers while people were sleeping."

It is unclear how Caplan would have obtained keys to the city-owned plaza sprinkler system.

Caplan has refused to return numerous phone calls from the *Bay Area Reporter* seeking comment on this and other allegations.

20 YEARS !!

**BAY AREA PHYSICIANS FOR
BAPHR SALUTES THE LESBIAN AND GAY COMMUNITY
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TODAY, THE GAY MOVEMENT IS BECOMING A POLITICAL FORCE. OPENLY
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SYMPOSIUM PLANNED

BAPHR and AAPHR (American
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dates are August 24-26, 1989.
For details Call (415)558-9353

BAY AREA PHYSICIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

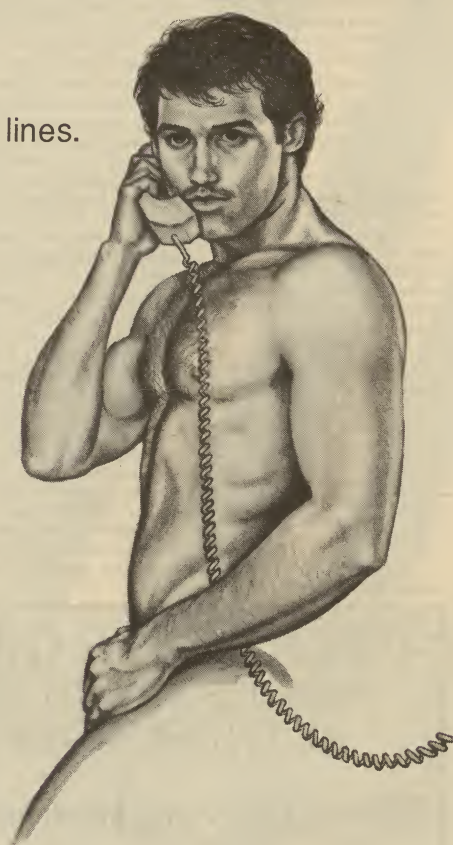
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Downey Zips It

Show to Leave the Air in September

by Allen White

Morton Downey Jr. says his nationally syndicated talk show has been cancelled because the distributor, MCA, is having problems signing and renewing stations across the country. The last shows will be aired in September, Downey said.

"That's wonderful," commented Randy Schell, a gay activist and one of the show's strongest critics. "I think it is important that people in many parts of the country protested the show. He may have been a novelty item at one time, but he just wore off."

The show, which airs locally on KOFYTV each night at 11 p.m., has had a stormy time of it since its first San Francisco airing last year at KRON-TV. During its initial broadcasts it was subject to strong criticism from gay activists as well as the San Francisco Department of Public Health and the city's Human Rights Commission. The show was cancelled by KRON because, according to several at the station, it was simply causing too much work for station staff.

The show's return to the San Francisco airwaves was first disclosed by the *Bay Area Reporter*. Following the story in the *B.A.R.*, the talk show host was booked on a "People Are Talking" show on KPIX. Part of the sell of the show on KOFY was that Downey would no longer be homophobic.

On the "People Are Talking" show, Morton Downey said, "I

understand that some of my homophobic bashing, as you say, is probably related to the fact that I was attacked by a doctor when I was 12 years old."

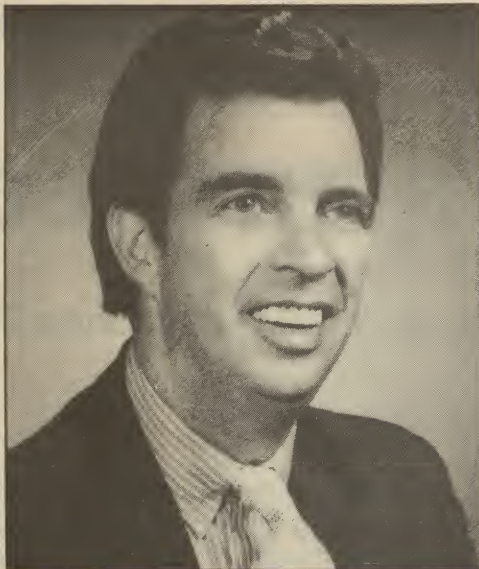
He also said, "I changed because my own brother, who I love dearly, is surviving with AIDS." He said he had sought professional help to deal with his homophobia.

The night the show went on the air, he met with members of the press on the yacht of KOFYTV owner James Gabbert. While on the boat he taped two spots condemning anti-gay violence.

The station then announced that the spots were not of broadcast quality, but a few days later said one spot was good enough to broadcast. Station spokesperson said this week that, in fact, public-service spots are airing on KOFYTV which have Downey asking for understanding and denouncing gay violence.

As the Downey show began to air in April on KOFYTV, it was known that there were severe distribution problems. Stations in Los Angeles, San Diego and Phoenix had all cancelled.

Downey appeared caught in a no-win situation. He had built a reputation for verbally haranguing his guests, especially minorities. Andrew Humm, a gay activist in New York, has a lawsuit pending as a result of a slapping incident that allegedly occurred during his appearance on the show.



Morton Downey, Jr.

Many viewers looking for blood found that the "new" Morton Downey was also a more boring Morton Downey.

At the same time, he ran up against a new kind of problem in the form of Arsenio Hall. Hall's show on Channel 44 has quickly become one of the top-rated late-night shows and has pulled viewers that might have tuned to Downey. The ratings on the Downey show have been, as one station analyst pointed out, worse than a test pattern. Many nights the show has not been able to get a one rating.

Adding to Downey's problems was an incident in which he

claimed to have been attacked by skinheads at the San Francisco Airport. Airport police said the claims were false. Although the San Mateo district attorney decided not to prosecute for false arrest, it is believed the incident sorely hurt Downey's credibility with the few fans he did have.

The entire Morton Downey affair has been a minefield for staffers at KOFYTV. As the cancellation announcement came, station staff would not comment and the station's owner was not available.

Downey said he wants to bring the show back as a weekly show. He also wants to put together a nightclub act to play in Las Vegas and Atlantic City.

Open Hand Given Grant of \$250,000

Project Open Hand, the daily meal service to people with AIDS and ARC in San Francisco, has been awarded a \$250,000 challenge grant for its headquarters facility, it was announced today by Open Hand Development Director Skip Sikora.

"We are very grateful to The Kresge Foundation for this boost to our fundraising efforts," said Sikora, noting that the award for renovation of Open Hand's 17th Street building stipulates that the project raise \$518,000 by the first of next year to receive the grant.

The grant was one of 72 awarded to date this year by The Kresge Foundation, for a total of \$24.4 million.

In 1988 the foundation received 832 proposals and awarded \$52.4 million to 169 organizations in 37 states, the District of Columbia and one outside the United States.

The grant will enable Project Open Hand to complete the interior renovation of the building into which it moved last February, to finish paying for its new kitchen equipment, and to avoid any long-term debt on the new facility.

Open Hand, which delivers a hot dinner and a bag lunch to people with AIDS throughout San Francisco, is now serving 1,250 meals a day to 625 people.

The Kresge Foundation is an independent, private foundation created by the personal gifts of Sebastian S. Kresge.

CELEBRATE GAY PRIDE! JOIN US SOUTH OF MARKET AT THE BORDER CANTINA

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5:30 p.m.-11:00 p.m.

HAPPY HOUR

4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Threats Force Firm To Drop Gay Name

by Dennis McMillan

Gay International Inc., a gay-owned and operated company located in the Castro, has had to change its name officially to Merit Diversified International Inc. to avoid further homophobic attacks.

Formerly registered as Gay International Inc., the publicly held corporation trading over the counter with stockholders in the United States, Canada and Australia, had many obstacles to overcome in the business world and from its self-proclaimed enemies.

While the company, located in the very heart of the gay mecca on 18th Street near Castro, proudly displayed its name and lambda logo, several times groups of vandals have spray-painted homophobic epithets on its front awning.

Each month the company received anonymous threats over the telephone and hate letters through the mail. A homophobe using the pseudonym "Frank Beard" sent mock newsletters with a barrage of anti-gay propaganda.

An example of his vitriolic penings was: "As far as I'm concerned, fags can go ahead and make themselves extinct, but should not make the normal people pay for their care. Also fags should not bring up, teach or be around children."

The business had been running since 1983 encountering difficulties while attempting to be

out of the closet. Business managers suggested a name change, pointing out that other openly gay firms had to remain otherwise publicly hidden with titles using words such as "Golden Gate" or "Individual Rights."

Their attempt to publish a newspaper, *Gay Times*, met with failure, because of the open title, according to members of their board.

The corporation does not know for certain but assumes the majority of its 1,500 stockholders are gay men and lesbians.

"We wished we could have stuck with our original name, but now we are assured of success for ourselves and our stockholders," said Vice President Adam Ayala. "We believe Merit will be one of the hottest names among the smaller up-and-coming public corporations in the 1990s."

The company has holdings in real estate, boat manufacturing, art work, gourmet foods, motion pictures and the recently acquired 20-year-old consulting firm, Premier Allied Consultants.

Ayala said that penny stock (stock that sells for under a dollar a share) was now available through any stockbroker. He said this was an excellent opportunity for gay people to invest in something that will be profitable and make them feel a part of a homophilic team. His only regret was that the company could not also be openly gay.

THE BAY AREA REPORTER
PRESENTS

LET'S DANCE

AT THE BEACH

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ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE
AIDS EMERGENCY FUND



CD4: A Magic Bullet?

by David Smyth

Soluble CD4 "could be a magic bullet against AIDS," according to Dr. Robert Gallo, a co-discoverer of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Gallo, who studies retroviruses at the National Cancer Institute, made his remarks at the fifth International Conference on AIDS, which concluded in Montreal on June 9.

"This is the heart of the AIDS problem," he said. The HIV virus has evolved something in its envelope that hooks into CD4 receptor sites on human cells like nothing in the history of medicine, letting it stick its head right into the immune system.

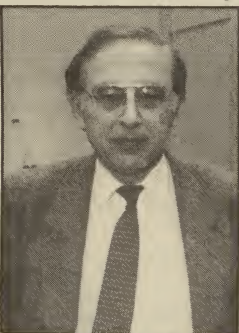
"If we can copy the CD4 molecule in massive amounts, we'll have a molecular decoy," Gallo said. "The virus will then bind to that molecule instead of getting into the cell. . . . There can never be resistance to such a drug, since if the virus becomes resistant to CD4, it will be unable to target the immune system."

The drug has been tested at several clinical centers, including San Francisco General Hospital. Researchers including Dr. Donald Abrams and Dr. Paul Volberding reported, "No sustained, convincing effects on total (T4 cell) counts or serum p24 antigen titres were observed." The drug had a half life of one hour when administered intravenously, but lasted longer when injected under the skin.

Dr. Robert Yarchoan at the Na-

tional Cancer Institute suggested that significant amounts of virus could be cleared from the blood by continuous infusion of CD4.

Tests have shown that free virus, as well as virus budding



Dr. Robert Gallo.

(Photo: S. Savage)

from infected cells, binds to the decoy drug. These results led Gallo to assert, "You could also attach a toxin to the CD4 that will also kill virus-infected cells." Several research groups are trying to accomplish this feat.

Dr. Edward Berger reported that splicing CD4 on *Pseudomonas* exotoxin "nearly completely prevented the spread of infection for up to 17 days" in a test tube by selectively killing infected cells. The Upjohn Company is manufacturing large quantities of the drug in preparation for studies of the drug's ef-

fects on animals.

This form of CD4 could have significant toxic side effects, Berger cautioned. He speculated that a successful strategy might involve wiping out the vast majority of infected cells with a few treatments of the compound, then using other antiviral agents to control the HIV remnants.

Hypericin, a component of St. Johns Wort, is another agent that has been attached to CD4. Studies conducted at Genentech in South San Francisco and at the University of Texas showed the molecule killed infected T cells and macrophages.

Genentech is also developing genetically engineered human antibodies that can be attached to CD4. This drug is expected to be much less toxic to people, and test-tube experiments show the drug can kill HIV-infected cells in concentrations achievable in the bloodstream, according to Daniel Capon of Genentech. "Animal studies are underway" and human trials might begin this year, Capon said.

To achieve forms of CD4 that will survive for longer periods in the bloodstream, some researchers are splicing the decoy receptor on a patient's own red blood cells; other scientists are using immunoglobulin.

Although CD4 appears to have raised expectations, some scientists reported that HIV seems, in rare cases, to be able to use other entryways into cells.

AIDS Foundation Releases 3rd Experimental Treatment Bulletin

BETA Bulletin of Experimental Treatments for AIDS

A publication of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation

June 1989

AZT UPDATE

by Ron Baker

"Zidovudine (AZT) is now the standard of care for persons with ARC and AIDS and should be given whenever possible."

—John Bartlett, MD

"AZT is not a very impressive drug for treating AIDS."

—Andrew Moss, PhD

"AZT should not be used to treat asymptomatic HIV-infected patients until further data are available from clinical trials."

—Mark Jacobson, MD and John Mills, MD

AZT is the only drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat HIV infection, and it continues to receive the lion's share of attention in the research lab and in clinical trials. This issue of BETA reviews the results of recent research on AZT. Among the topics discussed are the role of AZT in increasing survival time for people with AIDS and severe ARC, its possibly transient benefits, newly-reported toxicities, and a modified form of the drug, which researchers say is more potent and less toxic.

AZT STUDIES SHOW BENEFIT AND TOXICITY

Increased Survival Time

A U.S. multi-center trial of 4,805 people with previous bouts of PCP suggests that beginning AZT treat-

ment early after the AIDS diagnosis increases survival time. According to the authors, "...the finding of a strong association between stage of illness at time of initiation of therapy and survival suggests the need for study in patients still earlier in the disease process."

Some individuals responded to treatment better than others. People with hemoglobin levels above 12 grams per deciliter had a higher survival rate, for instance, while those with transfusion-acquired AIDS had a lower survival time. Gender or race did not appear to be factors in survival time. "The trend toward poorer prognosis in untreated women, IDU, and minorities with AIDS, as seen in the New York natural history cohort, was not seen in the present study."

No new information about the drug's toxicity came out of this trial. Only adverse effects requiring hospitalization were reported. Almost 20% of people in the study required

THE EARLY PROMISE OF COMPOUND Q

"Its specificity is uncanny,"

—Michael McGrath, MD, PhD

The purified protein extract from the root tuber of a Chinese cucumber plant (*Trichosanthes kirilowii*) appears to kill HIV-infected macrophages and to block replication of the virus in T-helper cells, according to researchers at UCSF and Genetab, Inc. In China the root has been used for centuries to induce abortions and, more recently, to treat malignant tumors.



DR. MICHAEL MCGRATH

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation has released its third issue of BETA (the Bulletin of Experimental Treatments for AIDS), which features a lengthy update on AZT, an interview with Dr. Donald Abrams of San Francisco General Hospital about Dextran Sulfate, a directory of open HIV trials in the Bay Area, and a section on plasmapheresis for HIV-related neuropathy.

BETA editor Ron Baker explained that "since our first issue much more has been learned about AZT and we want to disseminate that information to as many individuals as possible. This issue presents material showing both the benefits of AZT as well as its toxicity, HIV resistance to AZT, how AZT may

improve neurological functions, and information about a less toxic AZT drug."

The directory of open HIV trials in the Bay Area includes more than 32 trials compiled by the San Francisco County Community Consortium (but not limited to their trials alone). Information about who is eligible, drug name and mechanism of action, and site and contact person are included in the directory.

BETA is being distributed free in San Francisco hospitals, health clinics, AIDS agencies and select bookstores. For a subscription to BETA or for more information, call the San Francisco AIDS Foundation Hotline: 863-AIDS or 800-FOR-AIDS. ▼

Shapechangers 6 WEEKS TO A BETTER BODY

Don DeLee



BEFORE



AFTER

• If a picture is worth a thousand words, believe me when I say that I feel as terrific as I look in the "after" photo! In 12 weeks, I lost a total of 30 pounds. Thanks to Shapechangers, I feel stronger and healthier than ever.

Don DeLee, Electronics Technician

• During my six weeks with Shapechangers, I lost 6 inches off my hips and thighs. Last week I felt sexy enough to go and buy my first knit dress in years. Thank you, Shapechangers!

Patty Manning, Accountant

• It's been hard for me to diet all my life. With Jennifer teaching me about nutrition, I have made a lot of changes in my eating habits. For the first time in many years, I don't think of myself as being "fat."

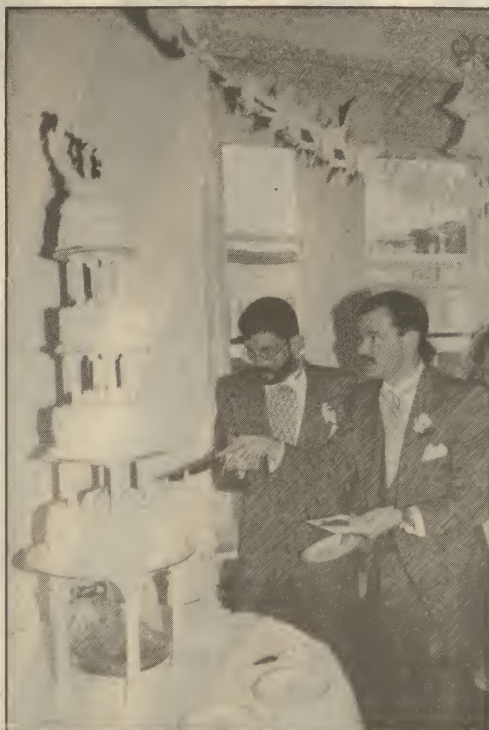
Allan Hurst, Office Automation Analyst

• My trainer, Peter, has motivated me to lose 30 pounds and drop 2 dress sizes in just 12 weeks.

Nikki Lewis, Municipal Bonds Broker

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386-1111



Just Married

Troy Naranjo and Daven Balcomb cutting the cake at the Revival Club after their Metropolitan Community Church wedding.

(Photo: Rink)

High Hopes for 1990

AIDS Conference Organizers Confident

Commentary by Dana Van Gorder

Delegates to the 5th International Conference on AIDS may have had differing views on one important issue—just how prominent a role political activism should play in what was first created as a scientific gathering on AIDS. But virtually everyone in Montreal agreed that when this important meeting opens in San Francisco in June of 1990, the 6th International Conference on AIDS will have greater visibility and be accompanied by more political activism than ever before.

The theme of the 6th International is "AIDS in the Nineties: From Science to Public Policy." The focus of the conference will be on developments in basic science, clinical trials, epidemiology and prevention. Because 1990 holds out exciting prospects for research on several experimental AIDS treatments, conference organizers are planning a meeting that sparks optimism as we enter the second decade of this epidemic.

The 6th International Conference will also explore the full range of social science and public policy implications of AIDS. Already, researchers from throughout the world have been invited to submit studies on issues including HIV testing, discrimination, clinical ethics, and access to treatment and clinical trials. The San Francisco conference will examine the ways in which ignorance leads to public policy that will perpetuate AIDS and the ways in which sound science supports policies that are fully responsive to the treatment and civil rights needs of all HIV-infected people.

Montreal was billed by the international press as the first AIDS conference at which AIDS researchers and AIDS activists confronted the differences in their philosophical and tactical approaches to the scientific and social challenge posed by this epidemic. San Francisco hopes to be the conference at which researchers and activists better appreciate their respective roles in responding to this epidemic and join more fully in confronting the real enemies that stand in the way of an intelligent AIDS public policy.

Already, the 6th International Conference on AIDS has been deeply involved in joining AIDS activists and scientists to resolve an important civil rights issue affecting HIV-infected people. Following the April detention of Hans Paul Verhoef of the Netherlands by United States immigration officials, community groups urged conference organizers to help bring the medical establishment into the fight to alter U.S. policy. The result was a significant shift in government regulations that will allow HIV-infected visitors into the United States for 30 days to obtain medical treatment, attend meetings, visit relatives and conduct business.

Working together in Montreal, San Francisco's conference organizers and community groups presented the International AIDS Society, which sanctions the International AIDS Conference, with a request that it hold future meetings only in countries that permit entry of HIV-infected travelers. And a

joint effort led to the adoption of a resolution by the Montreal delegates urging all countries to reverse policies that exclude HIV-infected travelers and seeking assurances from the U.S. government that HIV-infected individuals will be permitted to attend the San Francisco conference.

There are many people who would be thanked for their involvement on this important issue. Among them are Paul Boneberg of the Mobilization Against AIDS, Pat Christen at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Ben Schatz of National Gay Rights Advocates, Jim Foster of the San Francisco Health Commission, Clint Hockenberry of the AIDS Legal Referral Panel, Senators Ted Kennedy, Alan Cranston, Pete Wilson, and Representatives Nancy Pelosi, Barbara Boxer, and Tom Campbell.

The issue of travel by HIV-infected people will be given

great prominence at the 6th International for two reasons. First, the conference organizers want to bring about further change in U.S. policy on this issue, as well as change by other governments. Second, the local effort surrounding this issue proves that the task of moving governments to adopt a rational and humane public policy on AIDS can be accomplished when scientists and activists confront decision-makers with our knowledge about this disease.

It is fitting and exciting that the 6th International Conference on AIDS will be held in San Francisco. What we take for granted in San Francisco and the United States is the strength of our community resources to fight AIDS other countries are struggling to replicate. Thousands of delegates next June will have an important opportunity to witness first-hand the programs our community activists have assembled to care for

(Continued on page 35)



One of the industrial exhibits at the Fifth International Conference on AIDS in Montreal.

(Photo: T.L. Litt)

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Film Buffs

At the opening night party for the Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, left to right: filmmakers Rob Epstein, videomaker John Canali, and film historian Vito Russo. (Photo: Rink)

Hippler

(Continued from page 13)

state and society, gay people had no choice but to lead lonely, miserable lives of heartbreak and despair, culminating in a pathetic old age—but I never believed it. I believed we could do whatever we wanted. With Stonewall the old rules were overturned.

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Ever the romantic, my particular scenario for falling in love

was to move to the city (any city), find a likely candidate, and then drag him back to the woods, where the two of us would enjoy a blissful existence for the next 40 or 50 years. I'm not sure how I expected to achieve it, but I also assumed that kids would magically appear somewhere along the way. Perhaps eventually I would return to my hometown with lover and children in tow to lead a lavender version of the Ozzie and Harriet story. I was nothing if not naive.

Other gay people more radical

than myself wanted to transform society completely, to break the bonds of capitalistic, patriarchal, heterosexist tyranny by redefining family structure, gender roles and all the rest. This was OK by me. Then, as now, I was easy. A world of men in flowered skirts was just as appealing as a world of men in flannel shirts. The essential thing, I believed, was to create a world where all things were possible and acceptable. That to me was the fundamental meaning of Stonewall.

Unfortunately, it didn't work

out that way. As the '70s progressed, the clone look (and attendant perspective) drove all the others from the field, and gay society took on more and more of the traits and manners of mainstream society. To our dismay, we discovered that we could be just as intolerant, narrow and selfish as those around us. There were differences, to be sure, between us and the world at large. We held bigger parties, did better drugs, and had more sex than our straight counterparts—supposedly—but these differences were superficial at best and, if anything, deserved to defuse our energies rather than to concentrate them.

By this time I had left the provinces for the ghetto and found my own values changing rapidly. Love, children, a career, the future—all that was still important, but I couldn't help getting carried away by the giddy whirl of ghetto life, first in West Hollywood, then in New York, and finally in San Francisco. Finding a lover took a back seat to finding a trick for the night. Planning the next five or 10 years fell victim to planning the rest of the weekend. If there was a point to it all, it was hardly fulfillment or contentment but experience. I was determined to get jaded.

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All that changed when a virus called HIV invaded the community. The exhilarating rush and mad frenzy of our lives—which seemed to be the only way so many of us knew to say yes to life—came to a crashing halt when this mysterious and frightening intruder made its presence felt. Soon, all too soon, friends sickened and died, and those who survived wondered, "Yes, but for how long?" Shocked and disillusioned, we began to question our past and to reevaluate the direction of our lives.

There are those who say with or without AIDS we would eventually have questioned the path we were taking. Perhaps so. But too many add that we needed to mature as a community and that AIDS, as an agent of that transformation, was a blessing in disguise. Despite my criticisms of the past, of a lifestyle I once willingly shared, I cannot agree. Such an attitude is not only smug; it is facile and shallow.

To indulge in revisionism, to impose an '80s morality on the past, is too easy. People forget that we were charting new territory in the '70s. Certainly we made mistakes—but we did the best we could, and at least we faced our lives without trepidation. I, for one, will never apologize for doing what we did, especially when we could not foresee the consequences. We acted in good faith. All we wanted was to find a place for ourselves.

In the early years of the crisis, I was concerned not so much for myself as for the community at large. I recognized AIDS as a serious threat from very early on, yet I always believed that somehow I would survive. I couldn't imagine my own death. I couldn't envision a crisis so profound that an entire generation—the Stonewall generation—might be lost.

As time passed, however, the likelihood of escape seemed more and more remote. AIDS stole one friend after another. Finally, it threatened me. Even then, I preached optimism and survival. I still do. But in recent months, I must confess, my faith has begun to falter. I suffer more frequently from depression and

fatigue now than I ever have before. I continually wonder, "What is to become of us?"

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There are many disturbing things about the AIDS crisis, but one of the worst is that it seems to have overwhelmed all our other concerns. In our desperate and valiant attempt to save lives, we seem to have lost sight of many of our original goals—federal equal-rights legislation, for example. Although it is understandable that the national media have tidily reduced us to a one-issue "subculture"—it is convenient, if despicable, for them to equate gay people with disease—we must not do this ourselves. We must not abandon the demands we made at Stonewall.

And let those demands be angry ones. As a friend reminded me recently, we are celebrating the 20th anniversary of a riot, not a political garden party. Stonewall was an act of violence, an act that the vast majority of us who march proudly in the Gay Day Parade every year would probably not have condoned at the time. Such events are rare. The only other time gay people have felt so abused that they spilled en masse into the street in self-righteous fury was the White Night Riot of 1979, 10 long years ago.

I often wonder what I would have done had I been at Stonewall or the White Night Riot. Would I have thrown a brick or torched a police car? I'll never know. I only know how I felt when I read about these events from afar, particularly the latter one. I was excited and proud that gay people were rebelling, yet fearful of the consequences. Fortunately, we have a better way to express our anger now, a way many of us chose when we protested the Supreme Court's sodomy decision in 1987—non-violent civil disobedience. But non-violence works only when others are capable of sharing our outrage. In the past, this hasn't always been an effective option.

Years have passed since Stonewall, since White Night, since the discovery of AIDS. It sometimes amazes me just how much time has passed, how much history I have experienced. There are those, I suddenly realized one day, who, unlike myself, don't remember life pre-Stonewall, who never enjoyed the "good old days" of the '70s, who can't even imagine a world without AIDS. An entire generation of gay people has grown up in the shadow of a pre-existing gay culture—a culture which may have baffled them at times but which must have made their way easier. I sometimes feel alienated from these people, I sometimes envy them; but most often I view them as I do the generation older than my own—as partners, brothers and sisters, in an ongoing struggle for a just society.

A just society. As the idealism of youth merges with the pragmatism of middle age, I grow ever more realistic about what I can expect to see accomplished in my lifetime. I honestly thought, when I was younger, that an ideal world, a world without rejection, discrimination, harassment or brutality, was within reach. Now I recognize that I may die before sexual orientation ceases to matter, to turn people into second-class citizens. Naturally, this is hard to accept. But I take comfort in the belief that some day we will create such a world. It may take another 20 years or another or another, but it will happen. Stonewall was just a beginning.

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Betsy and Kathy look at their paintings in the window of Hospitality House.
(Photo: Barbara J. Maggiani)

Lesbian Homeless

(Continued from page 2)

Betsy hadn't been any stranger to drugs. She had fled to the street because her roommates were heroin addicts, and she was caught up in the labyrinth of substance abuse as well.

"I was drinking and smoking grass and crack. The situation had just gotten out of hand," she recalls. Two weeks after she made it to the shelter, Betsy was clean and sober and working for an employment agency St. Anthony runs. The jobs weren't much, mostly day-long casual labor jobs. She worked in the shelter for a while, then found a job in a

residence for senior women that the foundation runs. Off drugs and tired of the street, she found a place to live.

"I got me a place at Civic Center Residence and left the job. It was a religious thing with me. I couldn't deal with all those nuns. I was raised a Jehovah's Witness. I walked off the job and got on General Assistance," she says.

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Kathy, 25, was a squatter when she moved to San Francisco from Georgia in the fall of 1987.

"Someone else said they were moving out here. It turned out to be a squat, three months' free rent in an apartment on the corner of Haight and Ashbury. They were fighting eviction," she says.

The eviction happened suddenly, and Kathy was homeless. She decided to sleep in Golden Gate Park.

"I felt very vulnerable. I don't get depressed when I'm thrown into situations like that. I go into shock. I panhandled. I became part of a park tribe, sleeping with a family," she told the *Bay Area Reporter*. Kathy slept in the park for months.

Some friends were going to New York for awhile, so she stayed at their place, but when they came back she needed to find a place to live.

She ended up at Episcopal Sanctuary on Eighth Street, a huge, three-floor facility that was once, before the AIDS epidemic

shuttered its doors, the largest and most lucrative gay baths on the West Coast. It was turned into a shelter by a gay Episcopal priest diagnosed with AIDS.

"I thought it was luxury. They treated me with respect. I stayed there two months," Kathy says.

But she says that after an incident with a young, straight male who was harassing her, she knew it was time for her to move on. She had also used up the time the Sanctuary had allotted her, and it was time for another homeless woman to take her place in the small cubicle with no door that had been her short-term home.

The Sanctuary gave her a voucher for a free sleeping bag. During the time she was staying



Kathy and Betsy, formerly homeless, at the fountain at U.N. Plaza, the site of their first date.
(Photo: Barbara J. Maggiani)



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- Caring environment offering social support.

at the Sanctuary, she had tried to get on welfare. She went on, got cut off, went back on. She had saved enough money from her welfare pittance and bought a very used 1967 Ford station wagon.

"I loved that station wagon," she reminisces. "It had a



Betsy and Kathy at the Tenderloin Self-Help Center, where Betsy now works.
(Photo: Barbara J. Maggiani)

Homeless

(Continued from previous page)

beautiful engine that purred like a kitten. I slept all over town. I didn't stay too long in any one place—I didn't want people to know that I was a girl alone, sleeping in a car."

Even for the resourceful, life on the street is complicated. Restaurants don't let you use their toilets, and there are few public restrooms. The one public shower is at Aquatic Park. St. Anthony Foundation, however, has showers and a few washing machines and dryers that homeless people can use.

"I met Betsy at St. Anthony. I went there to take a shower," Kathy laughs. "I'd seen her around. She was really quiet."

One of the jobs that Betsy had managed to get was as the shower attendant at the Women's Shelter. She passed out soap and towels, did laundry, made sure that everyone who needed it was de-loused.

"She would come in to take showers. But the first time we really met was at the fountain. We both ended up playing in the water," Betsy blushed.

The fountain, close to the ARCAIDS Vigil, is a popular meeting place for homeless people living in the Tenderloin.

It was the beginning of romance for Betsy and Kathy. Time and talk and caring led them into friendship and the natural intimacy that seeks a lover's kind of expression.

One special night in the privacy of a small room in a dingy flophouse away from the madness of the street—it was all that Betsy could afford—they found that expression.

Betsy and Kathy had fallen in love.

So much so that Betsy moved in with Kathy. Into her station wagon.

Last June, sick of San Francisco and wanting to find their fame and fortune elsewhere, they joined a carnival. It took them to Newark, the Santa Clara County Fair, Fort Bragg. They worked the games. Ring toss. Knock the bottle over. Sometimes the money was good. Sometimes it was rotten. When it was good, occasionally the carnival owners would put the crew up for a night in a luxury hotel. Usually not.

"Carnival work was wonderful, but it got slow and we weren't making any money, so we decided to go back to San Francisco," Betsy says.

They came back to the Tenderloin, back to hotel life, back to streets filled with crack and crank, the stench of misery, back to welfare. Things looked pretty grim for awhile.

Months passed. They spent their afternoons painting in the only free, few-questions-asked arts studio in San Francisco.

Betsy began to work part-time at the Tenderloin Self-Help Center, supervising maintenance and coffee shop operations. They stayed for a while in the Tenderloin, but decided to move. They got an apartment in Potrero Hill and continued to come to work in the Tenderloin. Betsy puts in a stint sometimes as a peer counselor at the center, counseling homeless people. She understands what it's like. She and Kathy have been there.

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An estimated 2,000 homeless gays and lesbians live in San Francisco. They sleep in the street, they squat, they sleep in

United Nations Plaza, in front of City Hall. They live in shelters. City figures place the homeless population at about 6,000. Homeless activists in the Tenderloin place the figure at a more realistic 8,000.

In 1986, a report by the San Francisco Housing and Tenants Council documented the loss of 17,000 units of affordable housing in San Francisco between 1976 and 1986.

"I thought San Francisco was going to be the way it was eight years ago, when you could walk down the street and be gay and proud of what you are. Now, when people find out you're gay, they beat you up and curse at you. If you apply for a job and they find out you're gay, they won't hire you. They're afraid that if you're gay, you have AIDS," he told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Belva is homeless because, he says, the rents are too high.

"I'm not used to not having money. I'm not used to not having a roof over my head," he says.

Belva came to San Francisco looking for a job. Like many gays, he was tired of living a double life. Married for three years, he decided he couldn't do it anymore and filed for divorce. The settlement cost him a car and his life's savings. He thought he could find a better way of life in San Francisco.

Belva says it was hard to be gay in Arkansas, even though "the mountains are full of gay children." Surprisingly, when he came out to his family, they accepted him.

But he feels that, as a homeless gay man, maybe San Francisco isn't going to accept him. "I didn't find freedom here. I've found hostility and bitterness. It's a scary awakening," he says.

Thom Bartasavage, M.Div., is the program coordinator of the Tenderloin Self-Help Center, one of the many programs operated by Central City Hospitality House, a 20-year-old community center in the Tenderloin. Evolving from a grassroots gay, hippie crash pad for kids during the "Summer of Love," it provides shelter, counseling, arts activities, an employment agency, and publishes the award-winning *Tenderloin Times* newspaper.

"The government has failed to provide moral leadership in the homeless issue, as the churches have," he says. "We're not going to solve homelessness, gay or straight, by pulling out tin cups and giving money. We know the symptoms, we've got to start dealing with the causes."

"We stigmatize the homeless. We turn the victims into villains. The victims are symptomatic of the problem. One of the solutions is to expose the fact that we've created a class of disposable people," he told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Forty percent of the Tenderloin Self-Help Center clients are gay. The program provides clothing, housing, substance abuse services, HIV and AIDS support groups, and other services, including peer counseling and a drop-in center.

Bartasavage says there is a specific need for the gay community to provide moral leadership in providing solutions to the problem. He says band-aids don't work. "Homeless people don't need toilets. They need houses," he emphasizes.

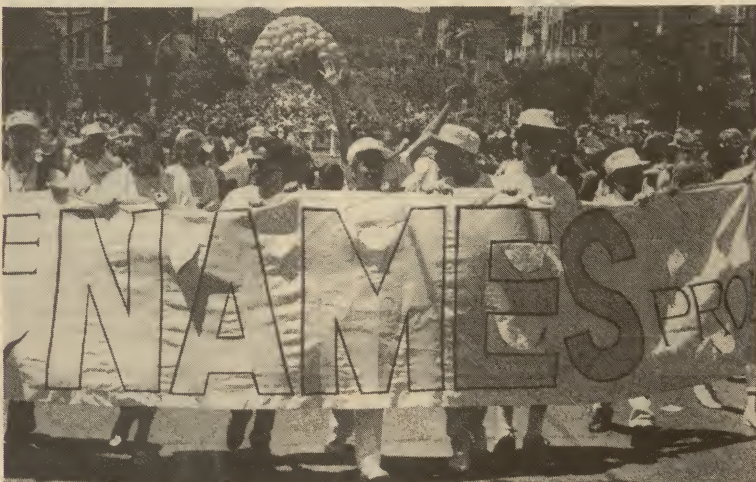
Twenty years after Stonewall, the dream of freedom, justice, and the right to love is alive among the gay homeless.

Good dreams die hard. ▼



Above: The crowd at Cafe San Marcos overlooking Market Street. Below, the Names Project contingent in last year's parade.

(Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)



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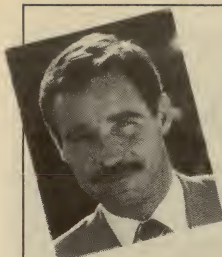
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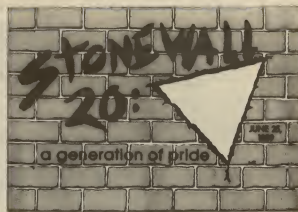
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by Marv. Shaw

The chance to be a role model for young people searching for their identities has been one of the prime rewards for Wiggys Sivertsen in her job as counselor at San Jose State University. But as she demonstrated in a recent interview with the *Bay Area Reporter*, she has done and become so much else within and beyond her professional life that she stands as a role model for both lesbians and gay men anywhere.

Two of the strongest reasons for the value of that identity are her statements about her life and work. Asked about her most satisfying achievements, Sivertsen replied, "I have been able to live my life congruent with my principles, with my beliefs." She explained that, coming from what she termed a "disfunctional family," she early developed a devotion to human rights and directed herself to the hard but rewarding task of living, learning and growing. For her, that meant that her total life must have meaning.

Asked later what kind of position she would most like to be in, exclusive of her present full life, she replied, "Exactly what I am doing!" So—what has she been doing?

Sivertsen, 53, is a full professor of counseling, has a private practice as well, and teaches "Alternative Lifestyles," a gay sociology course originated at SJSU by Clayton Lane, who recently retired. She feels that her professional life at the college has been great. As both a teacher and a counselor, she has found the atmosphere hospitable and the students, many of them the first of their families to go to college, to be continuously stimulating, in part because of the multicultural mix.

Almost from the start of her career at SJSU, Sivertsen has been a publicly identified lesbian. Joining the faculty in 1967 on a part-time basis, she started full-time work shortly after as a replacement for a man on sabbatical. She came into the tenure track when the college administration began implementing a policy of recruiting minority personnel. As a woman and a lesbian, she qualified on two counts, and when she was hired, she required that she would be identified as a lesbian in her job.

That emergence was a triumph in another important way as well. Prior to her college job, Sivertsen worked at the Peninsula Children's Center in Palo Alto, growing into the post of program director.

But she was fired in 1968, when someone on the center's Board of Trustees was told she was a lesbian.

"They thought I would just slip off into the night, ashamed," she recalls.

That wasn't Sivertsen's idea at all, and she fought the dismissal. But on the advice of her lawyer, who was apprehensive that Sivertsen's state license to practice psychotherapy might be withdrawn, she quit. Now, she relishes the irony that the awkward, painful circumstances of her coming out were followed by a new and



Wiggys Sivertsen.

(Photo: Ted Sahl)

better professional role in which her sexual orientation became essential.

Quizzed about her unusual first name, Wiggys explained that it is a nickname—but that it is the only one she goes by, except for the most implacable official contexts, such as passports.

"I was a very hyperactive kid," she explained, "Andy, my sister, seeing that I was always wiggling about, chose it for me."

Her hyperactivity, more focused now, still characterizes her adult life. Just finishing a year as chairperson of the college's academic senate, Sivertsen has chalked up many leadership jobs. Five years ago, with Ken Yeager, she started the Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee, which has grown from a fledgling upstart the politicians avoided to a muscular force that candidates and issue proponents court. Raising and channeling money for BAYMEC will continue to have a high priority for Sivertsen.

She was influential in the work of the Santa Clara County AIDS-KS Foundation, and assisted in its eventual amalgamation with ARIS, the combined AIDS support group for the county. Active in the ACLU, Sivertsen has also been on the Santa Clara County Self Esteem Task Force and the Human Rights Commission for the city of San Jose.

As she observes the situation of gay people generally and ponders their problems, she has come to believe that their greatest difficulty is themselves—their ignorance, complacency and inactivity. Recently, when she was with other BAYMEC members at an AIDS quilt display at the San Jose Convention Center and trying to get passers-by to sign a petition

destined for longtime San Jose Congressman Norman Mineta, she found that many didn't even have any idea who their U.S. representative was.

"We can't afford that ignorance anymore. We must be more politically aware," she emphasized.

Sivertsen is particularly aware herself of the combination of the political conservatives and the religious right. She calls the latter "Bible Nazis." "We have Christian fascists becoming members of school boards," she pointed out. "We can't let them define out futures."

On the actions of Reagan and Deukmejian concerning the AIDS crisis, she is even more vehement.

"They should be hauled before a court and tried for murder," she expostulated.

Though she will continue to be deeply involved in gay people's causes, she also sees a larger picture.

"There is hatred in the air out there," she said. "There is a real disregard for the Earth and the people who live on it with us."

Sivertsen sees a tremendous need for greater awareness of the broader issues and the assertion of more individual responsibility.

While retirement is still a good distance down the road, Sivertsen already has some definite ideas of how that will be.

"When I retire, I want to retire," she affirms. With her lover, Ann, also a psychotherapist, she wants to get back to rowing and to do more gardening. With her gigantic but gentle great dane Vulcan beside her, one can be sure that even those pursuits will be practiced avidly. ▼

Strength in Diversity

Twenty Years of Lesbian Lives

by Noreen C. Barnes

By the end of the 1960s, the new wave of feminism provided a body of women who had learned not to fear sex outside of marriage, whose society was reexamining old truths about homosexuality, and who had an interest in the welfare of women and an affinity with them. They were ready to begin to reclaim the image.

—Lillian Faderman, *Surpassing the Love of Men*.

From the time of the Daughters of Bilitis and its publication, *The Ladder*, to today, when we have organizations such as the National Center for Lesbian Rights and journals like *Visibilities* and *Maize* (a "lesbian country magazine"), the lesbian movement has been a crucial component of the women's movement. It has perhaps been more successful than its mainstream/heterosexual counterpart in recognizing and tolerating diversity in race, physical abilities and challenges, as well as the political and personal preferences of the women who comprise its numbers. Those differences have proved to be its strength, and as a result the lesbian "image" has undergone profound changes.

I spoke with several Bay Area lesbians on their views as women and lesbians of those changes in our lives over the last two decades, and about what they consider the important issues that will continue to concern us.

▽ ▽ ▽

Photographer Ann Meredith, who came out in 1970, notes that younger lesbians now have the ability to come out earlier in life and with generally fewer obstacles than those experienced by women of her generation. She cites the pioneering work in lesbian legal rights made in the last decade by such women as Mary Morgan and Roberta Achten-

berg, saying, "They have made real change possible." Ann is "always out, in whatever I do, wherever I am. When they [members of heterosexual society] don't see us, they don't know we exist." As lesbians, "our knowledge is power, and it's also responsibility."

▽ ▽ ▽

Christine Perineau, a member of the Old Wives Tales Bookstore collective, has been out for 21 years. She was involved with the civil rights, women's and gay/lesbian liberation movements all at the same time, and managed—after coming out first to her husband—to get divorced and retain custody of her children, raise them with a lover, get training and work and remain off welfare. She did this, amazingly, admirably, and with the obvious tenacity she still possesses, years before it became common, or even acceptable, for women to do so.

"People out in the world don't see the issues that we do," she said, expressing concern for lesbians' legal rights and for the misperception of AIDS in the community, noting that it is a "disease that affects everybody."

Now, far from the "double life" that lesbians once had to lead (but many, for various reasons, still do), Christine acknowledges that although "we have differences," in San Francisco, we are, compared to lesbians who live in other areas, "free to be who we are."

▽ ▽ ▽

Karen Strauss, associate director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, describes the way in which lesbians have lived for the past 20 years as a "double-edged sword": it has, on the one hand, allowed for a certain degree of safety in our lives, as we have not been as

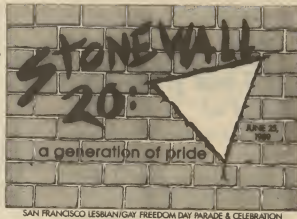
prone to much of the discrimination experienced by gay men; yet, on the other hand, lesbian rights have been jeopardized because we have not been included. "For some people," she says, "lesbians just don't compute. We're not safe." And it is that perception—that lesbians are not safe—that threatens our own safety and legal protection. The current political climate is such that we simply "can't afford to be invisible," Karen notes, citing the tremendous activity generated in the preparation of legal documents, particularly wills, for gay and lesbian couples since the Sharon Kowalski case came to national attention. We are finally being seen by the outside world, but, as a result, we are more vulnerable to it.

She credits the numerous women's music festivals over the last two decades as the environments that provided the positive cultural experiences that actually "played out what the women's movement said was true"—the personal is political. Despite the acknowledgment of difference, the discovery of diversity, and even some real dissent, these events perhaps did more to address the needs of the community than most women's organizations could by themselves, and these groups have been able to learn from these events as models of cooperation among women. Reflecting on Stonewall as a turning point, and on the changes in gay and lesbian life that resulted, Karen emphasizes that we cannot "recede into the background" ever again. "We must," she says, "speak up for ourselves."

▽ ▽ ▽

Lisa Zimmerman, who has worked in development and public relations for several Bay Area

(Continued on page 35)



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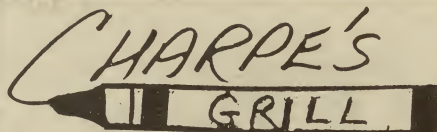
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For the Women's Float

Designer Laura Benni sculpting the figure of a woman out of styrofoam for use on the Women's Float in Sunday's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade. The parade steps off from Castro and Market streets at 11 a.m.

(Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

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Agnos Challenges Mayors on AIDS

Mayor Art Agnos, speaking Tuesday morning to a plenary session on AIDS before the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Charleston, S.C., called for new federal priorities in reimbursing cities for AIDS-related costs.

Agnos called the federal government's reluctance to fund

local programs that help keep people with AIDS out of the hospital "incomprehensible," and introduced a resolution calling for change.

Mayor Agnos also criticized the Department of Housing and Urban Development for refusing to allocate handicapped housing

funds for housing for people with AIDS.

Administrators of HUD's Section 202 program recently rejected a Bay Area housing construction loan request, concluding that while AIDS is a disability, it is not a handicap under the law.

"In its letter of rejection, HUD explained that Congress had not mentioned AIDS when Section 202 was passed—in 1964," Agnos said. "Obviously that decision was wrong, and I hope that the resolution before this conference asking for reversal will help this Administration to look into that HUD decision from the last administration."

Agnos said the licensing of two promising drugs, AZT and aerosolized pentamidine, had raised new questions and challenges for politicians.

"We are crossing a border that may not see us enter the Promised Land, but one which requires us to make new promises to ourselves and the people we serve because we as mayors now can alter the course of this epidemic," Agnos said. "It is time, in challenging the assumptions of this disease's course, that we also challenge some of the assumptions about our own role in fighting this epidemic."

Agnos called for new priorities that address recent medical developments.

"In the last fiscal year we provided 80 percent of San Franciscans with AIDS with home care, emergency housing, residential apartments and prac-

tical support for homebound patients—for a total cost of \$8.7 million," he said. "The federal government paid for only \$537,000 of that cost. In comparison, we had \$11 million for in-hospital patient care and the federal and state governments paid for \$8 million. For all of our cities, the emergence of possible treatments that stabilize people with AIDS for longer periods of time means that we must question the assumptions behind such priorities."

Agnos also warned that if past federal delays with the approval and subsequent reimbursement for promising new drugs are repeated when an AIDS cure is found, "The time will not be counted in lost months: It will be counted in lost lives."

"If the current statistics on death are unchanged, it would mean that literally half of all those who die of AIDS will die after a cure is found but before we can make it available," Agnos said. "That is why, at the recent International AIDS Conference, we saw protestors disrupt the scientists and researchers."

"Their faith is shaken—and they offer jeers rather than cheers because they believe that America has been less summoned to greatness in the way we have responded, than catcalled into action."

Agnos called on his fellow mayors to use the San Francisco AIDS model as a way to build trust. "Because long after this epidemic is over, we will still be living with AIDS and what it taught us," the mayor said.

Gay Information Available by Phone

The Gay Events Tape community information service, the one-stop news source since 1976, now introduces the new high-tech Gay Events Audiotex. Here's how it works: Dial (415) 995-2800. Then select the information you want from your touchtone telephone:

- Tourist information for the S.F. Bay Area... dial 1001
- Social group activities... dial 1002
- Gay & lesbian hobby events... dial 1003
- Gay Freedom Day parade info... dial 1004
- The latest time check... dial 1005
- Movie reviews and cinema info... dial 1006
- The famous gay events tape editorials... dial 1007

The new improved Gay Events Audiotex system allows any gay or lesbian business, club, church group, disco, restaurant, or any other group to list its own events on the system, independently, but as part of a complete central system. They control it with their own secret password, and change the information section from any phone, independent of the rest of the system.

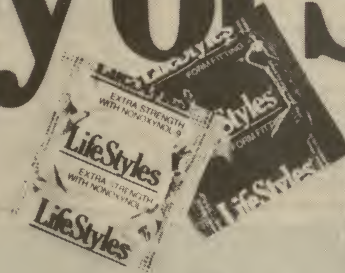
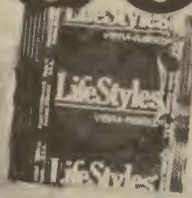
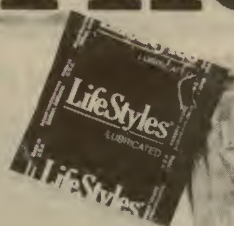
With the Gay Events Tape, callers now have a one-stop place to call, and the information is always fresh.

The Gay Events Tape is presented in cooperation with Voice Network, a Bay Area communication service. For information about Voice Network, call 995-2500.

Frisch



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Friday

(Continued from page 12)

look for this guy to do some pretty exciting things for their party. Stay tuned.

In what has to be the first political club endorsement of the 1990 primary, the Harvey Milk Gay & Lesbian Club of Southern California (L.A.) endorsed **Arlo Smith** for attorney general recently over L.A. District Attorney **Ira Reiner**.

Incidentally, Supervisor **Harry Britt**, **Tom Horn**, **Roberta Achtenberg**, **Paul Wotman**, **Carole Migden**, **Matt Coles**, and **Laurie McBride** are among the gay and lesbian leaders sponsoring a cocktail/fundraiser at **Stanley Eichelbaum's Cafe Majestic** next Monday, June 26, to benefit the Smith for Attorney General effort; 5:30-7:30 p.m., 255-1445 for info.

Gary Gartner has joined the City Hall staff of Supervisor **Richard Hongisto**.

Peter Ueberroth, the retired commissioner of major league baseball, has apparently renewed his interest in running for the GOP gubernatorial nomination and has been meeting with Republican party leaders in Sacramento. Ueberroth says he will make an announcement about his decision, but capital sources feel he will not ultimately take on the well-financed **Pete Wilson** in the 1990 primary.

What's this? A journalistic bitch-fight between columnists for the two dailies over the recent massacre in Beijing's Tiananmen Square? Tsk! Tsk!

Reports of Senator **Alan Cranston's** intervention on behalf of the Lincoln Savings and Loan of Irvine, Calif., a big Democratic Party contributor, show that even the liberal, squeaky-clean senator has a healthy appreciation for S&L groups that contribute enough money.

Kathleen Brown, a candidate for the Democratic nomination for state treasurer, will resign her \$65,333-a-year position as L.A. public works commissioner in July to campaign fulltime.

A ban on discrimination against AIDS patients was rejected last week in Orange County in a victory for religious fundamentalists who claimed the measure sanctioned homosexuality. The Orange County Board of Supervisors, in a 3-2 vote, rejected a proposed ordinance that would have prohibited discrimination against AIDS patients in the areas of housing, employment or county services.

A Gallup Poll announced this week shows that two-thirds of Americans approve of the way **President Bush** is dealing with recent events in China.

David Roberti, president pro tem of the state Senate, recently appointed San Franciscan **Carole Migden** to the state's 10-member Health Manpower Policy Commission. Migden, the San Francisco County Democratic chairperson, and the first lesbian state commissioner, will sit on the commission that oversees the licensing of health care facilities and the scope of training of medical interns, as well as the development of primary health care in non-urban settings.

BART Domestic Partners in Limbo

by Allen White

The definition of "domestic partner" is keeping a BART resolution from leaving the station. Last week by a 5-4 vote the BART board voted down a proposal that would have acknowledged domestic partners for employees.

As authored by board President **Arlo Hale Smith** and pushed by BART board member **Mike Bernick**, the resolution would be specifically directed at partners of gay men and lesbians. It would not recognize unmarried heterosexual couples. Bernick contends that the legislation would validate gay relationships but would not undermine family values, which he says would be done if the resolution were inclusive of straight unmarried relationships.

The problem arose last Thursday when **Wil Ussery**, BART board member, said the legislation would be "discriminatory" if it excluded straights. His position has changed the voting balance and caused the defeat of the measure.

Another board member, **Margaret Pryor**, had been considered the swing vote. When it came time to vote she took a pro-gay stance. Her position is so strong that if the resolution were changed to suit Ussery, then Pryor would change her vote.

The resolution was first presented June 1 to a committee of BART board members. The resolution calls on the general manager and BART staff to modify the district bereavement leave policy to cover death or im-

pending death of domestic partners. It also asks the staff to "develop a plan for inclusion of domestic partners in district health, dental and vision-care plans and present same to the board for approval."

Labor unions that represent many of the BART workers support the resolution. Local 790 of the United Public Employees Union and the Amalgamated Transit Union, local 1555, strongly support the proposal. Unlike the San Francisco legislation that was signed last week, the BART proposal would directly affect health benefits and the bereavement-leave policy.

Bernick said he could bring the legislation to the full BART board when he felt confident he had the votes. ▼

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District Attorney Arlo Smith.

City Hall gossips are telling me that Police Commission President **Louis Giraudo**, an old friend and political ally of Mayor **Art Agnos**, has been promised the first opening on the Board of Supes.

The Moral Majority, which folds this summer, said that the only acceptable "family" was one that began with the legal marriage of a man and woman and characterized homosexuality as "moral perversion." Well, Jerry Falwell's political action committee has, according to Falwell, "accomplished its mission." Crap. The Moral Majority was clearly neither, and its epitaph should read just that: "The Moral Majority is neither, and we have been laid to rest."

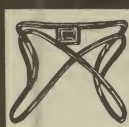
Interesting that Falwell chose Las Vegas, that hotbed of morality, to announce the demise of his religious, right-wing organization. Good riddance.

Migden, who has more than a decade of experience in health care administration as executive director of Operation Concern in San Francisco, was recommended for the commission by San Francisco State Senator **Milton Marks**.

Supervisor **Harry Britt's** closest friends are telling me that the supe, who saw his domestic partners legislation signed into law recently, has a private reason for the smile he is expected to be wearing in the Gay Freedom Day Parade Sunday.

Have a good Gay Freedom Week, and I will see you all at the parade. ▼

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11 a.m.
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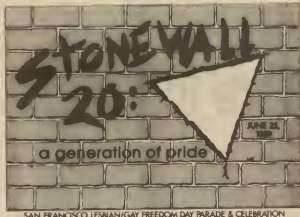
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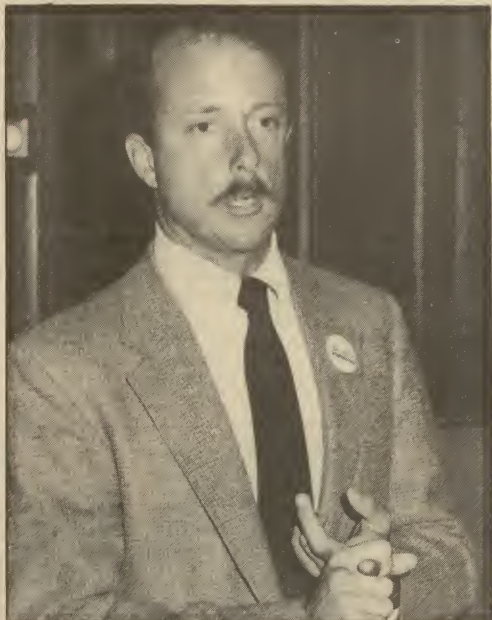
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Gays Hold Many Key Appointive Positions



Tim Wolfred, who serves on the Community College Board.
(Photo: Rink)

by Allen White

A walk through San Francisco City Hall on Monday afternoons is the opportunity to experience the growth and the victories of the gay community in San Francisco politics. There is a network of political appointments and staff assignments that provide a presence and a platform for advocacy that is unrivaled anywhere.

Francisco Community College District.

Also at City Hall are two members of the Municipal Court from the gay community. They are **Herb Donaldson** and **Mary Morgan**. The two are, understandably, two of the most respected persons in the city, and their appointments top decades of community involvement.



Judge Herb Donaldson being sworn in by Judge Dorothy Von Beroldingen as Carole Migden looks on.
(Photo: Rink)

The power of San Francisco lies with the mayor and the board of Supervisors. Last January, **Harry Britt** became the first openly gay person to become president of the Board, a position that gives Britt the distinction of being the second-highest elected official in San Francisco.

Tim Wolfred is one of three openly gay people who have been elected to public office in San Francisco. The other two were **Britt** and **Harvey Milk**. Wolfred continues to serve after almost a decade as a member of the San

The 11 supervisors have been sensitive in the community in their hiring of aides. Britt's two aides are **Jean Harris** and **Rick Ruvalo**. In addition to being a supervisorial aide, Harris is also the Northern California chair of the Lesbian/Gay Caucus of the California Democratic Party. She also works as a board member of the Community United Against Violence.

Newly elected Supervisor **Angela Alioto** employs **Joyce Newstat** as one of her aides. Last year Newstat held a key staff position

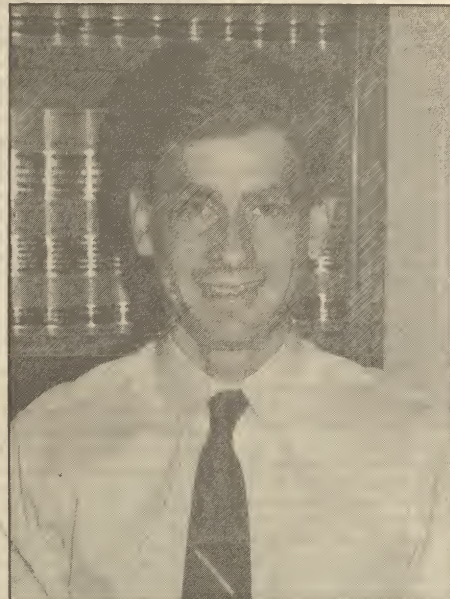
in the Dukakis for President campaign. In that role, she is given credit for getting **Michael Dukakis** to make his opposition of Proposition 102 a major campaign position.

Richard Hongisto was one of the first city politicians to make his views known directly to the gay community. As a police officer, he was one of the first police liaisons to the gay community. He strongly courted the community when he ran for San Francisco sheriff and again when he ran for supervisor. Gay activist **T.J. Anthony** serves as a member of Hongisto's staff.

Mayor **Art Agnos** has also chosen to give key staff positions to members of the gay community. As deputy press secretary, **Scott Shafer** is one of the most visible aides to the mayor. He recently completed a trip to Asia with the mayor and was his spokesperson on the journey.

Another key position on the Agnos staff is held by **Larry Bush**. Officially, he is an assistant to the mayor. He is the person who writes all of the mayor's speeches and is one of Agnos' most trusted advisers. On a day-to-day basis, he meets with Agnos to determine what the mayor will say and how he will say it. Working on the Agnos team, when he was in the California Assembly, Bush developed all of the legislative background for Agnos' position on AIDS.

David Custead is another person who works as aide to the mayor. Custead works in the mayor's Office of Criminal Justice—a position he held working for former Mayor **Dianne**



Paul Melbostad of the Permit Appeals Board. (Photo: Rink)

former officer in the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club has been named to the Fire Commission. Former Alice President **Connie O'Connor** is a member of the Recreation and Park Commission. The president of the Public Library Commission is **Steve Coulter**.

Leonard Graff, the respected lawyer for the National Gay Rights Advocates, sits on the Human Rights Commission as does **Lenore Chin**. Gay community pioneer **Jim Foster** sits

on the San Francisco Health Commission with **Pat Underwood**.

Former Community United Against Violence head **Diana Christensen** is a member of the Commission on the Status of Women and **David Neeley** is a member of the Social Services Commission.

The influence of the gay community in the arts is reflected with a variety of appointments. **Tom Horn** serves on the War

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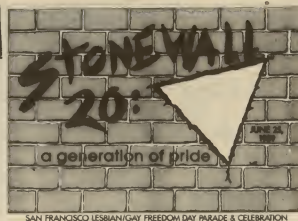


Tom Horn, trustee of the War Memorial Board.

Feinstein and he now continues under Agnos.

Nowhere is the diversity of the gay community more apparent than in the appointments by Agnos to city commissions and task forces. Gay attorney **Paul Melbostad** holds one of the most powerful political appointments as a member of the Board of Permit Appeals. He is also viewed as one of Agnos' most trusted confidants.

Agnos broke significant ground with commission appointments. **Sharon Bretz**, a



Board of Supervisors President Harry Britt.

Appointments

(Continued from previous page)

Memorial Board of Trustees, which oversees one of the largest performing-arts complexes in the world. **Stanley Eichelbaum** and **Danny Genera** are members of the Arts Commission. **Rob Epstein**, who won an Academy Award for *The Times of Harvey Milk* serves on the mayor's Film Advisory Committee.

Small business and consumer concerns are well represented by the gay community. **Russell Kassman**, who operates one of the city's largest piano businesses, is on the Small Business Advisory Commission. **Vivian Hammill** and **William Villa** both sit on the San Francisco Rent Board. **Rick Hauptman**

is on the Relocation Appeals Board and **Fred Dunnett**, **Nancy Stoller-Shaw** and **Clint Hockenberry** are members of the Citizens' Advisory Commission on Community Development.

Jerry De Young is a member of the mayor's Narcotics Task Force and **Ron Albers** is a member of the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee on Elections is represented by **David Binder** and **Richard Sevilla**. **Jim Hormel** was appointed by Agnos to the San Francisco Host Committee, and **James Haas** is the chair of the Transportation Task Force.

Earlier this year the mayor named city leaders to two task forces that are especially important to the gay community. The HIV Task Force is empowered to

provide direction for the city's role in the AIDS crisis. On that task force from the gay community are **Jon Cole**, **Martin Delaney**, and **Tim Wolfred**.

Earlier this month a task force was named to implement the domestic-partnership legislation. The task force is chaired by **Robert Achtenberg**, and attorney **Matt Coles** and **Robert Anderson** have been named from the community to that body.

The selection of many of these committee and commission members was made by the mayor's Committee on Commissions. Among the gay people who serve on that body are **Gwen Craig** and **Lester Olmstead-Rose**.

Carole Migden is one of the most important participants in San Francisco politics. She was, for two terms, the president of the Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club. She is the chair of the San Francisco County Central Committee of the Democratic Party and was recently named to the state Health Manpower Policy Commission.

San Francisco gays are also represented in the offices of legislators on the state and federal level. **Mark Cloutier** is an aide to U.S. Rep. **Barbara Boxer** while **Steve Morin** works in a similar capacity for U.S. Rep. **Nancy Pelosi**. At the state level, **Brandy Moore** is an aide to **Willie Brown**, the speaker of the California State Assembly.

In San Mateo County, **Tom Nolan** of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and serves on the Bay Area Metropolitan Transit Board.

Gays are also represented on school boards in the East Bay. **Bob Stipicevich** is president of the Fremont School Board, and **Tom Brougham** is president of the Peralta Community College District. ▼

Mayor's Gay and Lesbian Appointees

Robert Achtenberg, chair, Family Policy Task Force
Ron Albers, member, Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee
Rabbi Allen Bennett,* member, Self-Esteem Task Force
Robert Anderson, Family Policy Task Force
David Binder, member, Advisory Committee on Elections
Sharon Bretz, member, Fire Commission
Larry Bush, mayor's speech writer
Lenore Chin, member, Human Rights Commission
Diana Christensen, member, Commission on Status of Women
Jon Cole, member, HIV Task Force
Matt Coles, member, Family Policy Task Force
Steve Coulter, president, Public Library Commission
Gwen Craig, member, Committee on Commissions
David Custead, mayor's Office of Criminal Justice
Jerry DeYoung, member, Narcotics Task Force
Martin Delaney, member, HIV Task Force
Todd Dickinson,* president, Parking Authority
Fred Dunnett, member, Citizens Advisory Commission on Community Development
Stanley Eichelbaum, member, S.F. Arts Commission
Rob Epstein, member, Mayor's Film Advisory Committee
Jim Foster, member, S.F. Health Commission

Danny Genera, member, S.F. Arts Commission

Leonard Graff, member, Human Rights Commission

James Haas, chair, Transportation Task Force

Vivian Hammill, member, S.F. Rent Board
Rick Hauptman, member, Relocation Appeals Board

Clint Hockenberry, member, Citizens Advisory Commission on Community Development

Jim Hormel, S.F. Host Committee

Tom Horn, member, War Memorial Board of Trustees

Michael Housh, Arts and Recreation Liaison

Russell Kassman, member, Small Business Advisory Commission

Arthur Lazere,* president, Industrial Development Authority Commission

Paul Melbostat, member, Board of Permit Appeals

David Neeley, member, Social Service Commission

Connie O'Connor, member, Recreation and Park Commission

Lester Olmstead-Rose, member, Committee on Commissions

Scott Shafer, mayor's deputy press secretary

Richard Sevilla, member, Advisory Committee on Elections

Nancy Stoller-Shaw, president, Citizens Advisory Commission on Community Development

Pat Underwood, member, S.F. Health Commission

William Villa, member, S.F. Rent Board

Tim Wolfred, member, HIV Task Force



Human Rights Commissioner Leonard Graff.

(Photo: Rink)

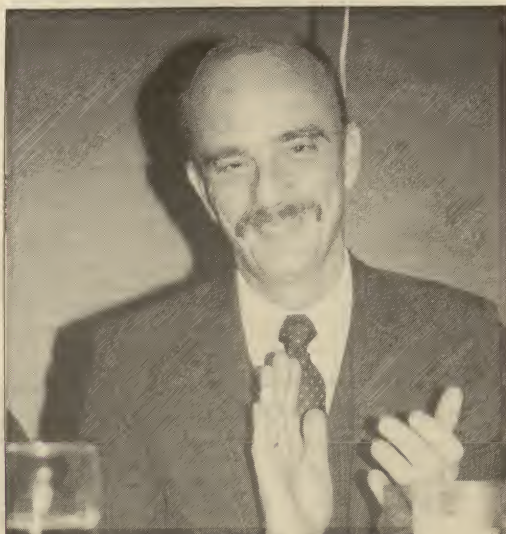
Parade Highlights To Be Shown at Bars

Male Entertainment Network (MEN) has announced the organization of an "Instant Replay" network of San Francisco video bars that will replay selected highlights of this Sunday's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade beginning the same day at 3 p.m.

The video, officially sanctioned by the Parade Committee, will be shot with three cameras at the Grandstand Viewing area, near

Market and Noe. The MC's will be **Hank Plante** of KPIX and **Ginger Casey** of KQED.

The bars participating in the network include the San Francisco Eagle, Rawhide II, Castro Station, Polk Gulch Saloon, Moby Dick, Galleon, Pendulum, Maud's and Amelia's. The video will also be shown at the Turf Club in Hayward Sunday evening. ▼



Health Commissioner Jim Foster.

(Photo: Rink)

DEATHS

Clifford Eugene Wilson

March 28, 1948-June 10, 1989
On June 10, Cliff Wilson died as he had wished: at home, comforted by the warmth and love of his family and close friends.



He is survived by his mother and father, Jessie and Eugene Wilson, his sister and brother-in-law, Kathy and Joe Elenteny, all of San Leandro and another sister, Suzanne Wilson of Fremont.

Cliff was diagnosed with the AIDS virus three years ago, and while his illness altered his quality of life, he continued to battle and lived life to its fullest.

A true athlete, Cliff spent many years working with youth programs and coaching Pop Warner's Football Crusader League in the San Leandro area. Cliff's competitive ability was also

visible when he coached and played on the Tenderloin Tiger team, which won the championship in the Community Softball League. He also played softball on the Ambush, Pestus Rowdies and Pendulum teams. He was an avid competitor when playing basketball, tennis, golf, and even on the pool table. Winning was important, but more so was his image of being a gentle, caring, and loving person.

With Cliff's passing, the Trivial Pursuit and Academy Award parties will not be nearly as feisty or entertaining. Cliff's friends and co-workers from Aunt Charley's will surely miss him, as a good time was had by all whenever he was "working" the planks!

A special "loss" of Cliff's friendship will be shared by his close friends Jim, Robbie, George and Bob, who will be designing and making a panel in Cliff's memory to be added to the Names Project Memorial Quilt.

A memorial service was held on Wednesday evening, June 14, at the Santos-Robinson mortuary in San Leandro. In accordance with Cliff's wishes, his ashes will be placed next to his grandmother's in the Chapel of the Chimes in the Oakland Hills.

Any donations can be made in Cliff's memory to the Spiritual Resource Center for persons with AIDS/SARC and their caregivers, 3421 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Oakland, CA 94609.

Kim Patrick Christensen

May 7, 1955-June 16, 1989

When he slipped off into the heart of God, Kim left on earth many who cherish him: his mother Bonita and brothers,



Gary and Daniel and their families, all of whom live in Sacramento, where Kim was born and reared; his co-workers and clients at La Amistad, the home for psychiatric clients where he worked most of his professional life; his best friend, Ed; his lover, friend and co-conspirator, Jim; and an amalgam of other people whom he had touched, a group of folk spirits of every age, color, style and caste.

Kim had a Masters in Counseling and was an MFCC, a licensed therapist. When he gave professionally, he gave of himself. He was also a lyrical prophet of the flesh and a priest of the beauty of raw nature—his cathedral the splendors of Yosemite and the parklands of the coast. Photographer, masseur, barber, handyman, counselor, dancer, party-person, motorcycle rider, artist and especially a friend. Kim was a kind of icon of Carl Rogers, Walt Whitman and Ansel Adams, worked into one.

A memorial service is scheduled: June 28 at 7 p.m. at the Neptune Society Columbarium, near Stanyan and Anza streets in San Francisco. A mass will be celebrated June 24 at 10 a.m. at St. Peter's, 6200 McMeDon Dr., Sacramento. The family requests that donations be made in Kim's name to "Hospice by the Bay," 1550 Sutter St., San Francisco 94109.

Walter Sven Gross

June 2, 1937-June 10, 1989

Walter passed peacefully to the world of light at 2 a.m. on June 10, with Ysidro, his lover, at home.



He lived in Oakland since 1957 and was a hair stylist with his own Salon De Gigi. He liked opera, symphony, Gilbert & Sullivan, travel, collecting, leather and S/M. He was a member of the "15" Association and leaves his brothers of the "15," his lover, Ysidro, mother, Martha, friends, Peter, Noel, Willy, Hal, Vera, Sandra, Francisco and Art.

Go softly and walk in realms of light dear friend, and meet us on the other side.

Please send any remembrances to AIDS Emergency Fund as this was his favorite charity.

Phillip James Baldwin

June 18, 1961-April 23, 1989

Phillip, you inspired a lot of love: proof, if you needed it, that you too could love.

We gathered on the Marin headlands May 21 to tell you that and to help each other bear our loss. Your presence was so strong in that beautiful wild place that we less felt the loss than enjoyed your warmth. It was of your making, this gathering, brothers Perry and Desiree, Mom and Dad and Shoshana and the boys—your found and lovingly created family, cousins and friends and Jerry, loving you then and now.

Thank you for the precious gifts you brought us. They will neither fade nor tarnish.

Any donations can be made in Cliff's memory to the Spiritual Resource Center for persons with AIDS/SARC and their caregivers, 3421 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Oakland, CA 94609.

Terry David Freese

Oct. 28, 1950-May 17, 1989

Terry Freese died from complications resulting from AIDS on May 17. Throughout his illness and at his death at the home of his



parents in Phoenix, Ariz., Terry was surrounded by the love and support of his family and friends. On May 21, on a high hillside overlooking the sea, Terry's ashes were released to the wind.

Terry was born October 28, 1950, in Ohio, but at an early age moved with his family to Phoenix. He lived in San Diego and Los Angeles before settling in San Francisco for several years. In 1980 Terry moved to New York City and lived in Greenwich Village until his return to San Francisco in 1986.

Terry was a marketing and sales executive in the liquor and fine wine distribution industry, but may be equally well-remembered in San Francisco from his years as a waiter and marketing representative for a local art photographer.

Terry met life "head on full force," his energy and commitment to the finest in life and relationships never flagging. He constantly required all those around him to live their lives to their own personal best. Throughout his life he gave unsparingly of his energy to the friends and causes he believed in, creating excitement, laughter and love. As death approached he often said, "I'm finally going to get my wings back." His passing leaves a void, but his family and friends give thanks for the experience of Terry, and know that he will live on in their hearts.

Randall Reed Edwards

July 13, 1950-June 8, 1989

The 19 months of my Randy learning who he really was was the 19 months of my learning what love really is. Meet me at the Tahiti Nui and know that I'm OK. I know you are. "I love myself exactly as I am at this moment." Thank you for the wonderful six years. I love you. —Your soul mate, Andy.

To my BB: Keep shining! Keep smiling! Keep shining! —Love always, your EDB, John.

Maurice Clifford Stack

1934-1989

No larger in passing than in life, he wrote, "[a]s I take my leave to now ride the eternal and gentle winds of peace I will journey and be with friends and loved ones gone on before me, beyond this world... I have left behind a positive legacy to many... left my mark on scores of fine and performing arts groups, hospitals, charities, over the years, giving in my way."

Maurice was born in Syracuse, New York, October 7, 1934. He "grew up in the East and Midwest, Illinois, Pennsylvania, New York and Wisconsin," moving with his family to Appleton, Wisconsin, in 1946, where he graduated from Appleton High School in 1949. He attended Layton School of Art, earned a BFA degree, and became a special student of Frank Lloyd Wright. He was designer and artist with Brady Company of Appleton; later he worked with Victrolight and Candle Company of Oshkosh, a division of Lenox China Co. Maurice lived, worked, and traveled extensively in these United States and abroad, always creative, dramatic, winning awards for his artwork, designs, and merchandising ideas translated into well-accepted products. He attracted people from all walks of life,

which led to his commission to do White House Christmas trees for two presidential administrations.

In the San Francisco Bay Area, where he moved in 1963 and remained until his passing in February, 1989, Maurice continued his successes, including membership on the Oakland Museum board, staff of the Merchandise Mart, and operating Designs Unlimited with a partner as innovators and dealers in fine product lines. Presentation items from rivets cast off from the Golden Gate Bridge originated here. He helped produce and decorate numerous charity balls and other events which attracted editors, volunteers, and party-goers alike in San Francisco. Among his business credits are character merchandise and product promotion for Determined Productions with Snoopy and Friends and Joan Walsh Angland products.

Appreciating his own humanity, Maurice noted, "I'mly true and real, old and new friends know I was a human being and tried to do what was right in life but had my faults, perhaps many less than most beings. Yes, I tried to do mostly what was right and pay my own way or better.

"I bid you goodbye, joy and eternal peace until we meet again somewhere in eternity! We will, you know!"

Though Maurice is with God, where he belongs, and we release him to the ages, he is with us in memory and in light.

Maurice expressly wished his friends would make gifts in his memory to either: Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, 1806-A Union St., S.F. 94123, or the Pediatric Infectious Disease Gift Fund—AIDS Research, Attn: Dr. Prober, Dept. of Pediatrics Infectious Diseases—A367, Stanford University Medical Center, Stanford, CA 94305.

To celebrate the life and memory of Maurice Clifford Stack, co-executors of his estate invite you to a Spiritual Concert at St. Ignatius Church, Fulton and Parker streets, S.F., Saturday, July 15, 1:30 p.m.

John J. Holeyksi, D.P.M.

May 9, 1958-June 10, 1989

John passed away June 10. At his side were those who loved him, Andy, Kathy, Lisa, Tom and Dennis. He left this world for a better place.

John was born in Michigan and moved to San Francisco about nine years ago. He was a graduate of the University of Michigan and the California College of Podiatric Medicine here in San Francisco.

To know John was to know a person who not only loved life, but loved to eat, to dance, to share with his friends, to travel, loved his work and of course loved his dog Ophie. John's mother died shortly before his own passing. Now he is with her and has left us with beautiful memories.

John, from the first time we met, the time spent together and now forever, I will always love you.

A "Celebration of Life" and spreading of John's ashes will take place on June 30. Please call Andy for information, 647-7488.

Obituary Policy

Due to an unfortunately large number of obituaries, Bay Area Reporter has been forced to change its obituary policy.

We must now restrict obits to 200 words. And please, no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

Deadline for all obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m.

RICHARD L. BONAPITO

1938-1989

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AIDS Conference

(Continued from page 23)

HIV-infected people.

San Francisco and U.S. AIDS activists will have the chance to show precisely how medical and community leaders have united to bring local, state and federal policymakers and voters to a better understanding of the civil

rights and treatment needs of HIV-infected people.

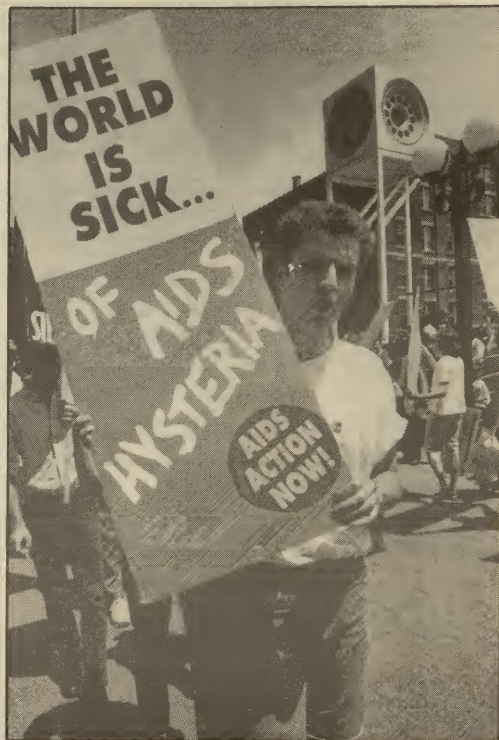
It goes without saying that because it is being held in San Francisco, the 6th International Conference on AIDS will provide visibility for many issues and points of view surrounding AIDS. Not merely by coincidence, the conference takes place during the same week as San Francisco's Gay Pride celebration. Conference organizers will work with Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day

Parade organizers so that conference delegates are well represented in the march as an international display of support for the goals of recognition of equality for lesbians and gay men.

To a person, delegates and staff at the conclusion of the Montreal Conference smiled and wished organizers of the 6th International Conference good luck. Producing these conferences, which are extremely important to the international effort to stop AIDS, and which grow enormously in number of participants and challenges each year, is a monumental and sobering challenge.

We are confident that by working with the enormously talented people available in San Francisco's community-based AIDS care and research organizations, we can organize a conference regarded as a model for future events and which is a major asset in the international effort to control AIDS. And we are confident that we can organize a conference that successfully gives focus to civil rights and treatment issues and that fulfills the needs of delegates for a thorough and free exchange of the AIDS research and information that will speed this epidemic to an end.

Dana Van Gorder is a spokesman for the 6th International Conference on AIDS.



A demonstrator at the Fifth International Conference on AIDS, held recently in Montreal. (Photo: T.L. Litt)



Demonstrators take over the stage at the Fifth International Conference on AIDS in Montreal. (Photo: T.L. Litt)

Lesbian

(Continued from page 29)

non-profit organizations in both the arts and social services, remarks that, just 26 and out for only two years, she is of "a different generation of lesbians." She speaks of a consciousness of use of language, particularly of the power of the word "lesbian." She says initially it was "uncomfortable to say," noting that it was easier to simply say "gay." She also comments on "politically correct terminology," her use of "girl" with lesbian friends and very conscious use of "woman" in non-lesbian company. Of the concept of "roles," what Lisa calls "this butch/femme thing," she finds that she personally is comfortable dressing in a somewhat "femme" way, and feels that there no longer exists a kind of unspoken rule about what constitutes "proper" lesbian apparel.

Part of the wonderful diversity of the community today is due to the evolution of androgynous uniformity and the shattering of '70s stereotypes of what lesbians were supposed to look like. Now there is a concept of almost anything goes—but we can still pick each other out in a crowd. And we always can. We have radar.

Lisa senses a certain pressure—or expectation—from other women to, as JoAnn Loulan puts it, "merge." At parties or other gatherings, Lisa is bothered by the assumption that she and the woman she is with are a couple—that they are "married" when in fact, it may be only their third date. Lesbians rush into coupledom much too quickly, Lisa be-

lieves. She thinks that younger lesbians are "aware how unhealthy this is" and are taking more time to date, play, and meet more people before developing permanent relationships. This perception goes along with a new perspective and renewed approach to lesbian sexuality—a rejection of the stereotype of the lesbian as a non-sexual being. Lesbians are responding with a real celebration of their sexual selves, evidenced by an explosion of erotica of various forms.

Both Christine and Lisa talked about the importance of the lesbian community's involvement in recovery in various ways. Christine noted that there are many lesbians in recovery programs, which range from alcohol and drug abuse to incest, eating disorders and other traumas. In recovery, she says, the lesbian community is finally "healing" and "finding power."

▽ ▽ ▽

Whether we read *Off Our Backs* or on our backs, wear flannel shirts or leather skirts, our strength does lie in our diversity and in the control over our own lives which we must maintain. Twenty years later, we are more visible, a political force to be reckoned with, and the creators of a distinct and multifaceted culture that has produced its own political, social and legal organizations, literature, history, music, art forms, and businesses—what Faderman calls "a whole culture in which women might take care of themselves and each other." It is this knowledge, spirit and power with which we look forward to the next 20 years, and is the unseen bond that unites us.

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A publication of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation
AZT UPDATES

"Zidovudine (AZT) is now the standard of care for persons should be given whenever possible."
"AZT is not a very impressive drug for treating AIDS are available from clinical trials."

AZT is the only drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat HIV infection, and it continues to receive the lion's share of attention in the research lab and in clinical trial. This issue of BETA reviews the results of recent research on AZT. Among topics discussed are the role of AZT in increasing survival time for persons with AIDS and severe ARC, reported side effects, and a form of the drug which may be more potent and

AZT STAY SHOW AND T

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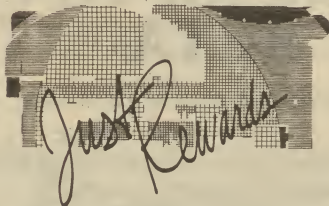
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Church Group Wants Repeal

AIDS Discrimination Measure Headed for Ballot in Concord

by Allen White

An ordinance banning discrimination against people with AIDS is headed for the November ballot in Concord with the Roman Catholic Church taking a stand in support of the measure. Earlier this month a group headed by a fundamentalist church pastor turned in a petition with more than 10,000 signatures from people who want to overturn the ordinance, which was passed on April 25.

Bishop John Cummins, who heads the Diocese of Oakland, came out on June 9 in support of the ordinance and denounced those pushing for repeal. The Rev. John Schexnayder, a spokesman for Cummins, said, "The picture is being given that Christian churches are behind this effort to repeal the measure, and that just isn't so."

The diocese includes 89 Catholic churches in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Both counties and several cities in the Bay Area have adopted similar anti-discrimination ordinances. Last week, Cummins was joined by pastors from a coalition of religious and civic leaders to publicly support the ordinance.

Because of the petition filing, the ordinance is suspended. The law bans discrimination against people with AIDS in several ways, including housing and employment.

The attempt to repeal the ordinance is headed by the Rev. Lloyd Mashore, pastor of the Concord Christian Center. Both sides say that the law has nothing to do with gay issues, but the battle lines are remarkably similar to previous fights between funda-

mentalists Christians and gay individuals and groups.

On June 6 Mashore submitted 10,532 signatures to the county. About 4,000 of these need to be validated for the issue to appear on the November ballot. The City Council supports the ordinance.

This Concord ordinance may prove to be the battleground for Christian fundamentalists who have taken a stand nationwide against support for people with AIDS and also gay rights. Many of these ministers across the country understand the financial values possible by fighting such an issue.

On similar issues, churches and self-styled evangelists have taken up a homophobic stance and then used the position as a lever for raising substantial amounts of money. In past years these ministers have taken positions against the Catholic Church.

Concord Christian Center minister Lloyd Mashore seems to have amassed a number of reasons for opposing an ordinance that would ban discrimination against people with AIDS. He said one problem was that people in the area were concerned because the ordinance was passed "in a rather hurried manner." Another reason for his objection is because he says the law "favors a special-interest group."

Mashore describes his church as "an interdenomination church with family-oriented values."

Ken Stanley, a gay member of the Contra Costa County Human Rights Commission, says opponents of the law "reinforce the

idea that Concord is the redneck capital of the state."

The city of Concord has gone on record opposing a resolution by its Human Rights Commission to establish a gay pride week in the city. For the past several years there have been many charges that the county is a base for the Ku Klux Klan. Racial incidents are commonplace in the county, especially in the Pittsburg and Martinez areas.

When the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday was first celebrated, people in Concord found anti-black literature distributed on car windows in hundreds of Concord apartments.

Concord Mayor Colleen Coll is planning to meet with representatives of the Concord Christian Center and the gay community to clarify the positions of both sides.

Davies Conducting CMV Drug Study

Davies Medical Center is conducting an open study (no placebo) with Foscarnet in the treatment of cytomegalovirus (CMV) retinitis in AIDS patients at the center.

To participate in this study, have your health-care provider call: Lonnie Leonard, R.N., M.S.N., Research Study Coordinator, 565-6058 or 565-6778 Beeper 58.



River Recovers Cup

About \$6,000 was raised at the third-annual River's Cup Canoe Race held recently at the Russian River. The proceeds will benefit the Sonoma County AIDS group Face to Face. Doug and Bob (above) returned the cup to the River. Contestants from a straight restaurant took the trophy last year.

Here Comes the Parade

PROMENADE TERMINUS (A "Revue'en" Nose)

The culminating activity of fund raisers for the Oakland Parade Contingent was a dual event between Town & Country and Mama Chuckles' domain. A "Polish" auction and entertainment were the highlights of both events.

A "Polish" auction, in case you didn't know, is one where the bidding goes by dollars only. The item up for bid can glean a dollar from bidder one (and he/she pays the dollar) and bidder two bids another dollar (and he/she pays the dollar), and so on, until a predetermined time limit has been reached. As the seconds dwindle down to those precious few, the dollars and bidding become quite frantic. And, it's quite possible that a "late comer" can bid his/her dollar and "win" the offering for that dollar, even though many more dollars have been collected within the allotted time limit. Such is the case of the "Polish" Auctions last Sunday at the Oakland Parade Contingent's final fund raisers.

It just has to go without saying, but I'll say it anyway, that the entertainemnt segments by Tootsi! and Manuel are by far and away just about the best and most well-rehearsed bits of pantomime on either side of the Bay. The chemistry between those two and the energy from them to the audience can not be measured, to any degree of accuracy, on anyone's meter of applause. It's just there, and the audience knows it and feels it, and Tootsi! and Manuel feel it and it just happens. It's a natural thing that cannot occur between either of them and someone else. For you "would-be pantomimers" out there, it's called—first and foremost—talent, and then hours and hours of rehearsal.

Tootsi! and Manuel know that for every minute on stage, a minimum of 15 to 20 hours of practice have been devoted to the routine.

As to the parade itself, which is this Sunday, there are 109 units, and Oakland is scheduled in the 94th slot—which is in the first third of the parade. So get there early so you can see our entry. Remember, the parade starts at Castro and Market, so plan accordingly.

And, speaking of the float, kudos and plaudits must go to Val, Suzie and Leroy, who applied the second coat of paint on the float last Friday. I was told to ask just how Val felt after all those Schnapps and beers!

The bushel of booze (winning ticket drawn at Town & Country) was won by Bill Bailey. The Dali print (winning ticket drawn under the watchful eye of Mama Chuckles) was not available as of this writing.

GRANDEVAL GENETHLIACON

(A "Happy Birthday" Nose)

While some went across town to finalize the OPC's festivities, others opted to journey down Hayward way to celebrate Ed Paulson's 109th birthday, and quite a celebration it was at Big Mama's. The flyers did advertise "door prizes" but since there are only two doors in and out of Big Mama's one can only assume that someone decided not to pursue that venue because no door prizes were awarded.

Daddy David did his usual outstanding production with the buffet, but his melon balls took forever to thaw. I've heard of cold cocked, but cold balled is something new.

Among the notables in attendance to wish Ed the happiest of honorariums (from the festivities at T&C) were Emperor and Empress X Tim and Fina, Trampolina and Mr. Tortilla, and Cha Cha. Honey Hush joined that group later on, but one can only wonder why "she" wasn't celebrating Father's day with "her" daughter, or does David have to do that, too, along with everything else!

Other visitations were necessary, and a trip to Turf Club was "high lighted" by Linda "The Raffle-Ticket-Seller-Queen" telling me, after she was introduced to yours truly, that she thoroughly enjoyed my column about Connie Stevens. Harumph! Mr. Marcus isn't as old as I am and I'm quite a bit taller than he is. I just don't know how Linda made that mistake! (Unless it was from some prompting from Hagatha and Daddy David!)

OMNIUM-GATHERIUM (A "Melange" Nose)

AIDS Awareness Month continues in Hayward with Big Mama's "Condom" auction this Friday, starting at 7 p.m. The Turf Club will celebrate Gay Pride on its patio with a wonderful barbecue on Saturday, June 24, beginning at 2 p.m.

It hardly seems possible but Town & Country will celebrate its sixth anniversary early next month, on Saturday and Sunday, July 8 and 9. On July 8, Stephanie and Morgan will col laborate and do a show at 9 p.m. On July 9, there will be a barbecue, Thorn & Roses c/w band from 4 to 8 p.m., and raffles, prizes, and games both days.

Yes, people are making "light" of it, but in reality, when one low-life member of our community goes out of his way to steal from a good-doer, it's enough to make one vomit. But, this same ass hole has been doing it for years and most everyone looked the other way. I shake my head in disbelief that this incident caused such tsktsk's but yet not one word of "huh?" has ever been expressed about the countless hours of labor and unaccounted-for dollars that were expended for that house(s). When will a certain individual have enough balls to come out in public and say, "I saw checks and they were altered so that the payee read 'Cash' instead of a similar word"?

It's quite amusing that "Miss Vestibule" has gone out of his way to thank M.B. for his outstanding work on EBAF, and even expressed "sincere" verbage as to the improved condition of my spouse. Who's counting, and who really cares, but in the last eight or nine months, M.V. hasn't even had the courtesy or phonyness to even acknowledge my existence. And M.V. had the unmitigated gall to try to sell me raffle tickets! What the fuck does she think is going on?

Yes, I heard it from the horse's mouth, if you will. There is going to be a luau at Town & Country, possibly at the end of July. The parking lot next door will be a perfect spot. Steve is in the pro-

cess of discussing with Tita, even though Hagatha said, "No!"

I don't know. I haven't received an issue of the ISE Newsletter for the last two months either. That "middle-of-the-month publication" must have meant middle of the month before Coronation.

How come Trashy Trish will play "bongos" on Cheryl's boobs but she won't sell her shirt for a buck seventy-five?

If you are looking for a kindly, well-to-do older gentleman who is no longer interested in sex, forget it! All the kindly, well-to-do older gentlemen I know are still interested in sex—albeit with no other kindly, well-to-do gentleman! I can smile at that. Love, Nez.



Eddie Paulson celebrating his birthday with "his kids."

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ACT UP To Demonstrate Against INS Policy Toward HIV Carriers

Joined by members of San Francisco's Asian and Latino communities, ACT UP/San Francisco will demonstrate against the policy of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service toward immigrants, non-citizen residents and tourists suspected of HIV-infection, Friday, June 23, at noon at 630 Sansome St.

New INS regulations continue to restrict immigration, residency status and travel on the basis of suspected HIV-status. ACT UP objects to the threat of mandatory testing and forced deporta-

tion directed toward these individuals.

Using picketing and street theatre, ACT UP will demand that this INS policy be changed.

Recent events have added urgency to securing anti-discrimination policies toward tourists, non-citizen residents and immigrants. Paul Verhoef, a Dutch citizen traveling to San Francisco to attend the National Gay and Lesbian Health Conference in April, was detained and jailed in Minneapolis on the

basis of possession of an AIDS treatment drug; after a review of his case, the INS released him on a temporary visa.

This month a British citizen invited to the United States to participate in an AIDS-related drug trial in San Francisco was also detained and eventually deported.

Despite INS assurances that those visiting the United States for medical purposes will not be detained, INS policy and action remains discriminatory. ▼

Gay, Art Activists Protest Censorship Of Photo Exhibit

by Cliff O'Neill

More than 100 demonstrators from a broad base of Washington D.C.'s gay/lesbian and arts communities gathered outside the Corcoran Gallery of Art June 16 to denounce the gallery's decision to cancel a photo exhibit by critically acclaimed gay photographer Robert Mapplethorpe.

Brandishing placards bearing samples of Mapplethorpe's work and condemnations of the gallery, the activists chanted choruses of "Show the work" and "Fight the art fascists" to passers-by lunching in the area and a handful of visitors going into the gallery.

The protesters expressed outrage at the Corcoran's June 12 announcement cancelling the photo exhibit "Robert Mapplethorpe: The Perfect Moment," an exhibit by the late photographer, which has been touring the country since early this spring.

Mapplethorpe, who died of AIDS shortly after the tour began, has been lauded by critics nationally for his startling works, many of which are black male nudes and self-portraits with sadomasochistic overtones.

"In its 120 years of existence, one criterion has always been steadfastly upheld at the Corcoran," Corcoran director Christina Orr-Cahall said in a June 13 statement on the show's cancellation. "Our institution has always remained outside the political arena, maintaining a position of neutrality on all such issues... Citizen and congressional concerns, on both sides of the issue of public funds supporting controversial art, are now pulling the Corcoran into the political domain. Therefore, it is with considerable regret, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, with the unanimous approval of the Board of Trustees and the full support of the staff, has decided to withdraw from the tour..."

Orr-Cahall was out of town the day of the protest and could not be reached for comment. Corcoran board members did not return phone calls.

"In saying they don't want to politicize art they are squelching that same art," Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance President Roger Doughty said. "They

don't see the irony of their actions."

The activists denounced the Corcoran's decision as a direct response to pressure from 106 conservative members of Congress who, in a June 8 letter to Hugh Southern, acting chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, denounced federal grants to display art they deemed offensive and threatened all future funding for the NEA.

Although the D.C. Mapplethorpe exhibit was not funded by the NEA, the congressional letter mentioned the Mapplethorpe exhibit by name, alluding to a NEA grant to a Philadelphia gallery for the exhibit's tour.

Also at the demonstration, Derek Guthrie, publisher of the *New Art Examiner*, told the crowd that Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., has now launched an arts project in which he will monitor federally funded art programs he perceives to be "anti-Christian" and sometime this summer will be introducing legislation to ban funding of such art.

To launch darts at Helms, one protester wore a pig mask and carried a sign bearing Helms' name. Another carried a sign that read "Experts Agree: Helms Is A Pig." Others made allusions between the Mapplethorpe controversy and the Islamic fracas over the author Salman Rushdie's book, *Satanic Verses*, carrying signs that read "Mapplethorpe = Rushdie."

In a related development, Rev. Pat Robertson, on a recent edition of his syndicated program, *The 700 Club*, also launched an all-out campaign against the NEA, based on the "Piss Christ" exhibit.

Also, free-lance art critic Eric Gibson, writing in the June 16 *Washington Times*, praised the Corcoran's decision to pull the works by the "avowedly homosexual" artist.

"In his photographs, male genitals—often abnormally large—appear in close-up, filling the white space and offering no relief to the viewer," wrote Gibson. "...What makes his art so offensive to many is that its best-known subjects are almost exclusively homoerotic." ▼

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Robert Mapplethorpe.

(Photo: Robert Pruzan)

Street Closing Information For Parade Day

Many streets will be closed in the Castro, on Market Street, Franklin Street and in the Civic Center area for the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade and Celebration. Towaway restrictions will also be in effect for all of these streets.

In the Castro Area, Castro Street between Market and 19th Street, Collingwood between 19th and Market, and 18th from Collingwood to Dolores will be

closed to all street traffic on Sunday, June 25, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. The parade will form on these streets.

Market Street between Castro and Franklin Street, Franklin Street between Market and Grove, and Grove Street from Market to Franklin Street will be closed to traffic from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. This is the parade route, and the only streets that may be used to cross the parade route are Sanchez, Church and Van Ness Avenue.

The entire area bounded by Van Ness, Golden Gate, Hyde and Grove streets will be closed from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. on Sunday, June 25. This is the Civic Center area.

Event organizers have noted that many of the streets that are adjacent to the closed streets will be crowded, and people are advised to not bring autos into the area.

Concerto Collective To Benefit AEF

During Gay Pride Week, the Concerto Collective will perform a program of concertos and arias to benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund and the Metropolitan Community Church AIDS Ministry.

The Concerto Collective is a newly formed chamber orchestra that collaborates with singers and dancers, and features its members as concerto soloists, conductors and composers.

Featured works include J.S. Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 4, conducted by Kathy Gisler, with soloists Janet Katulas, Susan Yael Smith and Valerie Tisdell; W.A. Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 12 in A Major, with pianist Seth Montfort; C.M. von Weber's Concertino for Horn, Op. 45, with soloist Christopher Baker; and arias by Mozart, Boito and Montfort, featuring bass David Tigner, soprano Cynthia Anne Pryor, and baritone Scott Hampton, with conductor Jose-Luis Moscovich.

The AIDS Emergency Fund provides emergency grants for rent, food and medical expenses to persons with AIDS. The MCC AIDS Ministry serves the spiritual needs of persons with AIDS.

The concert will be Friday, June 23, 8 p.m., at the Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St.; \$10 suggested donation.

VA Mobile Unit To Visit Guerneville

The Veterans Administration Medical Center of San Francisco has a mobile medical screening unit that visits outlying areas to better serve the veteran population.

On June 26 this mobile unit will visit the Guerneville Veterans Building to help veterans who desire HIV testing or those who are positive or have ARC/AIDS and want a consultation.

The Veterans Administration, which has one of the largest and most experienced treatment programs for ARC/AIDS in the world, has an outstanding record for excellent treatment and sensitivity.

This is a new outreach program to veterans with ARC/AIDS and will be able to handle only about 15 veteran clients.

Veterans C.A.R.E. has been asked to help promote this visit, and Face to Face has agreed to set up the appointment schedule:

Monday June 26, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., by appointment only, Guerneville Veterans Building. Appointments may be made by calling Face to Face (707) 887-1581.

This program is highly confidential but is not anonymous.

PWA Walking to D.C. In Awareness Campaign

Richard Carper, a person with AIDS and AIDS activist from Eugene, Ore., began walking from Portland to Washington, D.C., on May 1 on a PWAs' Walk and Roll for Life '89. He is due to arrive Sept. 14.

Goals of the walk are to raise consciousness across the country about the many issues surrounding AIDS, especially the need for funding for residential care for PWAs, and to raise \$1 million for the cause.

In spite of two AIDS-related hospitalizations during the past year and a half, Carper, a recovering drug addict, is in good health and is keeping to a rigorous walking schedule average 25 miles a day. On June 7 he took a two-day detour from his itinerary to meet with Utah State Health Department officials and state AIDS coalition representatives.

Carper entered the state of Wyoming from Idaho on June 9

to walk more than 400 miles across the state by the end of June. He will be meeting with state health officials and AIDS representatives in Cheyenne and in the other states along the route.

The walk is being financed by contributions or one, two or three cents a mile for the 3,300 mile walk, sale of T-shirts and \$1 donations to sign a scrolled letter to President Bush asking for federal funding for residential care for PWAs. Carper will present the letter to Bush upon his arrival in Washington.

dis•tinction
(dis•ting•shun)
n. eminence; repute;
mark of honor bestowed
for merit. See: **B.A.R.**

Gay Jewish Group To Hold Retreat

Ameinu, an educational and support network for lesbian and gay Jews working professionally in the North American Jewish community, will hold its third-annual retreat this summer. The three-day gathering will provide an opportunity for participants to address personal life and professional choices, religious life and practice, homophobia and heterosexism in the Jewish community, AIDS and more.

Ameinu means "our people." The Ameinu retreat is open to lesbian and gay rabbis, cantors, educators, social workers and students in training for Jewish communal positions. The partners are welcome too. The conference will be held at a location selected to ensure participants' privacy. Space is limited and the registration is due by June 30.

For more information about the Ameinu network or retreat, write to: Ameinu, P.O. Box 281, Jenkintown, PA 19046. All inquiries will be treated with the strictest confidentiality.

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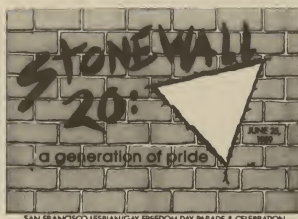
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Remembering Stonewall

What It Was Like in June 1969

by Larry Boxx Former owner, Stonewall Inn

I remember the first time I entered the Stonewall Inn's premises. I was escorting Janet Weisbert, the student council president, to New York's City College Soph Dinner Dance for the class of '59. It was held in the, then, classy, straight restaurant on the evening of Nov. 16, 1956. Shortly after that it became a fancy straight nightclub. When the club began to lose business, its owners did the next standard maneuver and turned it into a gay bar, using the license that they already held. The next usual step also occurred when they lost their license. This was pre-Stonewall.

At that time there was no such thing as a licensed gay bar. There were some straight bars with a gay bar in the back room where dancing with the same sex was allowed, until the large white light on the ceiling went on. When that occurred, you dropped your partner and reached for the nearest fag hag, hoping to look heterosexual when the police broke in.

When the Stonewall lost its license because people of the same sex were dancing in the front room, it became an after-hours bar, a gay disco. Nobody bothered to get a license because they were going to be raided for selling liquor after hours anyway.

About two weeks before the Stonewall Declaration of Independence, in early June 1969, a gay bar called the Snake Pit was raided. It was just another "normal" situation to the police, but there was the beginning of a catalyst involved. An exchange student from Columbia University was among the "faggots" arrested and taken to the police station. Afraid of being deported, he jumped from a third story window, impaling himself upon an iron fence. It took the fire rescue department many hours to remove both him and the iron bar to the hospital. The entire episode was captured in a full front-page picture in the *Daily News*. The poor guy lived, but he was maimed for life.

Two weeks later, it was Stonewall's turn. The police actually had a reason to raid the bar: the Stonewall did not have a liquor license. After the recent incidents, however, the patrons decided to strike back. Gay liberation started on Christopher Street on the evening of June 28, 1969.

You may have heard stories of pennies being thrown at the cops, forcing them to retreat into the bar and barricade themselves inside. What actually happened was that the gays who were there got so mad, they removed a parking meter from the sidewalk and used it as a battering ram. Perhaps that's where the pennies came from. Three days of rioting followed.

The newly formed Tactical Police Force, created for the racial riots in Harlem earlier in the year, was called down to Greenwich Village for the first time. People marched in the streets and expressed their dissatisfaction with law enforcement to any police officer they saw.

The gay community now wanted to have what everyone else had, a front-room bar. Gay businesses wanted to operate just like the "regular" people.

The gay joints started confusing the police by opening juice bars, because no liquor license was needed and therefore no laws were being broken. The police then had to look for other reasons to raid. When they became disco clubs, the police once again made arrests, because a cabaret license was needed to allow dancing.

By this time, I owned one of these juice bars. On one particular evening I was arrested and taken to the police station, in handcuffs, and released on my own recognizance—eight different times. Each successive arrest took less time when I discovered that I could type my release forms faster than the cops could.

Gay bars had always been the center of gay rendezvous. It was either there or the tearooms. The bars became the town halls of the community. They began to be gathering places, just to talk. The Fire House was one of the first meeting places that wasn't a bar. From the day of Stonewall's defiance, the gay community began to demand its rights to be equal.

During the next three or four years, many gay businessmen put their money where their mouth was by starting openly gay



Stonewall, where it all began.

(Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

businesses and starting to assume their economic franchisements.

I left New York in 1972, went to Florida, and immediately applied for a liquor license. I was fingerprinted and, as usual, a background check was made. When my papers came in from New York, they looked at me and laughed. There were 154 misdemeanor arrests on record. I had to go to New York and hand-carry my records back to Florida. Yes, there were 154 arrests, but there

were only three convictions: my garbage cans were uncovered; I had no soap in the men's room; I had an unlicensed coat room.

This was the usual type of harassment. The three problems were actually Board of Health violations, but the police were allowed to use them by choice to make an arrest.

I finally received my license and opened another Stonewall on Miami Beach. My "out-of-the-closet" gay entrepreneurship began. We had the same type of

harassment again, but this time we not only beat City Hall, we did it in Federal Court, and I openly ran a gay bar. Unfortunately, it mysteriously burned down early one morning, two weeks after we won our case.

It's amazing—through the past 20 years I've heard that about five thousand people claim that they were actually at the Stonewall that fateful evening. In actuality there were approximately 400 people in all. I guess everybody wants to be involved in an event that makes them proud, and it makes no difference—they were there in spirit. The more the merrier.

Twenty years later, gay businesses are now very openly run. All you have to do is check the yellow pages, *Damron's Guide*, or find a local paper or magazine. You can even check the white pages for MCCs or coalitions or AIDS organizations.

I have been proud for more years than some of you have lived. Most of you will not recall the World's Fair in New York, when all but one bar was closed down and you had to wait in line outside the Beachcomber for an hour, or to grab the nearest lady when the white light went on. Much has happened since then, but we have a long way to go. You are reaping what my generation sowed. It's your turn now to carry on.

Gays Didn't Originate The Term 'The Castro'

In August 1966, when I came to the San Francisco Bay Area, San Francisco's Eureka Valley had two gay bars, the Missouri Mule (today's Detour) and the Mistake (today's Men's Room). Neither bar was a magnet that attracted patrons in large numbers from outside the Eureka Valley and Duboce Triangle neighborhoods.

To the best of my recollection, neither heterophile nor homophile San Franciscans spoke of Eureka Valley as "The Castro," or perceived of that residential neighborhood as one with a growing gay population—even though the number of gay bars in San Francisco in 1966 indicated the existence of a significant population of gay self-identified (but usually closeted) men and women.

Looking back from 1989, Eureka Valley seemed to change almost overnight into a gay ghetto, but this evolution was probably a development over time as homes in the neighborhood became vacant through the death of their residents and these residents' married children were already well established in town on the Peninsula or in the East Bay.

The establishment of the Pendulum in or about 1969 was really the ceremonial baptism of Eureka Valley as both a developing gay residential area and a locality whose gay bars attracted gay men from neighborhoods throughout San Francisco and

the rest of the San Francisco Bay Area—including San Leandro.

The October 1973 *Kalendar* (the forerunner of today's *San Francisco Bay Times*) published a series of maps pinpointing the location of gay bars and other gay-owned business: "Downtown," "Polk-Larkin," "Folsom's Miracle Mile-Valencia Valley," "East Bay" (Oakland and Hayward), "North Beach," and for San Francisco's Eureka Valley a map labeled "Castro Village."

This issue of *The Kalendar* demonstrates historically how open the Bay Area's activist minority of gay men and gay women had become in the short time between both the Stonewall Riots at Sheridan Square in 1969, and the opening of the Pendulum Bar at

Eureka Valley in or around 1969, and the fall of 1973 when Harvey Milk challenged the leadership of the Society for Individual Rights (SIR) by running for the first time for the Board of Supervisors.

It was Milk who originated the nomenclature "Castro Village" for Eureka Valley when he organized the Castro Village Association for gay-owned and gay-supporting businesses—probably in 1972.

Although circulars in gay bars in Eureka Valley and each issue of *The Kalendar* promoted these "Castro Village" maps, that terminology never caught on, probably because of confusion with the East Bay's well-known Castro Valley.

Until recently, however, I always assumed that the term "Castro Village" was the origin of the shortened geographical label "The Castro" (or "The Castro District"), which by about 1975 largely replaced "Eureka Valley" as the designation for this residential sub-division of San Francisco's Mission District.

The Jan. 22, 1927 issue of *The Monitor*, the now-discontinued weekly of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, carried an advertisement for retail businesses along Castro Street, between 17th and 19th streets, and along the 4000 to 4500 blocks of 18th Street under the geographical classification "Castro District." Such an advertisement ran frequently in *The Monitor* throughout 1927, as did others that record the terminology used to designate the pre-shopping mall commercial neighborhood centers of San Francisco.

For example: "Upper Market" then identified Market Street between Duboce and Castro streets, and not Market Street west of Castro.

The term "The Castro" is not a "gay label," but actually is a neighborhood identifier that predates, by many years, the evolution of the Mission District's Eureka Valley as a largely perceived gay residential community.

—James F. Gibbons



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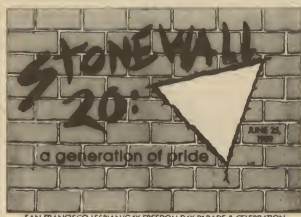
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Places of Freedom

'70s to the '90s, A New Liberation Movement

by Harry Britt
President, San Francisco Board of Supervisors

The Stonewall spirit, San Francisco-style, broke out in all the places where gay people gathered in the 1970s. This city already had a reputation for respecting the right of individuals to "do their own thing." It was natural that we would create our own places of freedom, on Castro, Polk, Folsom, and Valencia streets, as well as in the gay enclaves in the Tenderloin.

That time was very special to people of my generation. Remembering the '70s is like remembering adolescence, our first sensing of our own power, opening up intense feelings that we had never dared express back home in Middle America.

Those days marked the political emergence of gay liberation. The pride and pleasure we found in our gay world made us increasingly uninterested in twisting our lives to suit a homophobic culture. Women came together in places free of a male presence. We all found ways to live our lives, at least part of the time, as though there were no social restraints on our freedom to enjoy being gay. There may have been some self-delusion in all of that, but it felt very good.

Harvey Milk's job was to show us we didn't have to settle for fantasy—we could take our good feelings about ourselves and our anger at the way we've been treated and build an effective politics to remove the obstacles to our own freedom. For the sake of the kid in Altona, as well as for the sake of ourselves, he challenged us to go to City Hall and every other

place of power and tell the story of our lives.

Harvey's greatest frustration was with other gay people unwilling to challenge the realities of homophobia. When he urged us to come out, he meant we should give up the illusion that we could find happiness and personal fulfillment without being honest about who we are. He hated the attitude that being gay was only a small part of our lives, that we could get along if we behaved in ways that didn't offend. He understood that we would never find the power to create freedom by currying the favor of tolerant politicians. Rather, we must create a strong, proud lesbian and gay presence in the political system to advance our agenda on our own terms.

The 1980s have been about creating that presence, teaching the world from a position of strength to deal with our lives. I know from my own experience as a gay elected official that we must have a place at the table if our lives are going to be listened to. The access I have to regional, state, and federal decision-making processes gives me an opportunity to articulate our experiences in a multitude of important forums. Thousands of gay activists have worked to establish our constituency family of the Democratic Party, and some very strong leaders are working to develop a similar presence in the Republican Party. In virtually every major urban center we are acknowledged as a political power to be reckoned with, and leaders like San Mateo's Tom Nolan are do-



Supervisor Harry Britt

(Photo: Barbara Maggiani)

ing outstanding jobs in suburban America.

Barriers to lesbian and gay participation are being challenged beyond politics, too. It has been much easier for me to work with business leaders around domestic partners issues because of the visible leadership of our people in corporate San Francisco. Dealing with the media has become a much better experience because of the education we have done over the years. Religious institutions have been slow to change, but

most can no longer ignore the persistence of the advocacy of lesbians and gay men. At a national conference of the United Methodist Church concerning AIDS, for example, I felt last year a receptivity to gay leadership that was unthinkable ten years ago. We can be very proud of the progress we've made toward integration into the mainstream of American life.

My sense is that in the '90s, we will be involved in a new kind of liberation movement, one created by the AIDS epidemic.

Besides its devastation of our people, that epidemic brought with it the potential for new kinds of discrimination. We sought ways to protect our privacy, the confidentiality of our health records, our right to make our own choices. Early on, people with AIDS, especially the brave leaders of the AIDS/ARC Vigil, stepped forward to challenge society's denial of their lives. All of us in politics moved the epidemic to the top of our agenda.

Now we must do more. There are hundreds of thousands of gay men who are seropositive to the HIV virus. All of us must identify ourselves as a part of that community and build a politics around that commitment. That politics will include more time in the street, more civil disobedience, more acts of individual courage like Stuart McDonald's. A world that formerly saw us primarily in terms of sexuality increasingly sees us all as people affected by AIDS. We must challenge all those negative images of homosexuality. We must make sure the world sees the full truth of the courage of our people through this epidemic and listens to our wisdom. What is at stake is the political and medical response to the needs of seropositive people. There is a real possibility these lives will get less attention than other faces of the epidemic unless all of us stand as a self-identified community of seropositive people demanding a response consistent with the value of the lives affected. The leadership has come from those most affected, especially the people of ACT UP. There is plenty of work for all of us to do. ▼

Relations Between Gays and Police

by Richard Hongisto
Member, San Francisco Board of Supervisors

The Stonewall rebellion holds a large place in lesbian and gay history. But a lesser known incident in San Francisco helped spur the gay community here into action three years before the New York City resistance to police harassment.

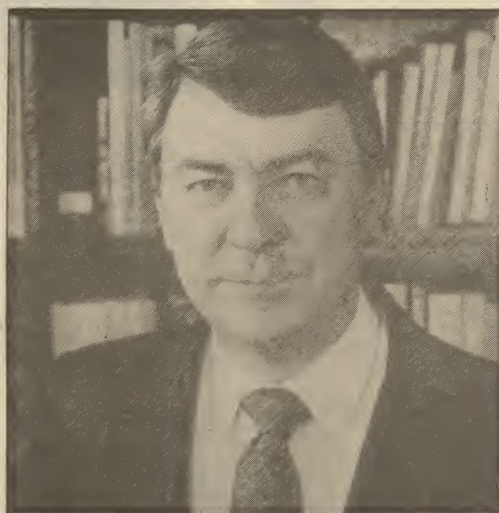
The California Hall was the site of a New Year's Day dance in 1965. After interrogating gay party-goers for hours, the night ended when police arrested two gay rights lawyers. The outcry from activists forced the appointment of Officer Elliot Blackstone as the police department's first liaison to the lesbian and gay community. Three years later I would succeed Blackstone.

Numerous positive changes followed the pre-Stonewall years. Upon my election as sheriff in 1971, I organized the nation's first recruitment of open lesbians and gays into the department—a practice that continues under Sheriff Mike Hennessey.

The founding of the Golden Gate Police Officers Association has given gay and lesbian officers collective strength and visibility.

"I take pride in launching the nation's first recruitment of gay men and lesbians into law enforcement."

The Community United Against Violence was established to advocate for victims of crimes based on sexual orientation. The Office of Citizens Complaints was approved by voters in 1973. Although the agency has been challenged on its effectiveness, there has been a strong effort recently to beef up the OCC's operation. In fact, the police watchdog agency will receive 23 percent more funds this year than last. New rules are in place to give the OCC great autonomy from



Supervisor Richard Hongisto.

the police department.

There have also been special forums and classes set up to educate police officers about the lesbian and gay community. We have two openly gay judges on our Municipal Court, Mary Morgan and Herb Donaldson. And we have a police chief, Frank Jordan, who struggles to bring change to a department not

eager for change.

But despite this great progress over time, we still encounter episodes of injustice. There was the attack by some police officers on patrons of the Elephant Walk. Then came the Dolores Huerta tragedy, the bungled George Smoot murder investigation, the effort to dismantle the ARCAIDS Vigil, and several in-

stances of abuse against gay citizens.

As I reflect on our struggles through the years to build a more socially conscious police department, I come away believing that we are making progress. We will no longer tolerate homophobia in any branch of government. But it is not enough to have police or city personnel refrain from expressing bigoted thoughts. We must build a police department that itself seeks to pursue social justice. We must permit police officers to rid themselves of regressive training styles and job conditioning, and encourage them to become advocates for the rights of all citizens. They must become risk takers and challenge policies or laws that would deprive any person their dignity.

Lofty ideas, you say. I do not think so. I have been a police officer, a sheriff, a chief of police and a director of corrections. I understand the nature of law enforcement and the conditions of officers work under. That is why I believe it important to the officer and the public to transform law enforcement from a regressive role to one of advocacy. Rather than use laws to restrict free speech rights, our police should encourage its expression. Rather than act immediately on one citizen's complaint and proceed to shut down the ARCAIDS

(Continued on page 50)

Visions of Equality

A Mayor's View of Lesbian and Gay Anger

by Mayor Art Agnos

This month marks two decades since Stonewall. The signs of how much distance has been traveled in those two decades are all around us.

But how far distant are we from the anger that erupted from lesbians and gay men that night 20 years ago outside a Greenwich Village bar?

What would it mean if that anger has been left behind? And what would it mean if that anger still lies close to the surface, still misunderstood despite the progress we see?

Twenty years ago, equality for lesbians and gay men was not a polite debate: it was an angry quarrel.

Much has changed. Lesbians and gay men who used to sit in the hallways to protest the closed doors of politicians now sit as members of state legislatures, city councils, and Congress. Newspapers which once compromised by dropping the word "pervert" when identifying lesbians and gay men now have openly gay editors and reporters.

In just the past 10 years, advocates for lesbian and gay equality have faced Anita Bryant, John Briggs and Jerry Falwell—and, with Falwell's announcement this month that he is abandoning the Moral Majority, all three are fading memories.

But those of us who have worked side by side with the community know that the anger that started Stonewall isn't finished.

Nor should it be.

Today we have a phrase that sums up what Stonewall meant.

"Silence equals death."

It grows out of the urgent need to confront the pervasive and official silence surrounding AIDS, but it speaks to other concerns that also should not be silenced.

Anti-gay violence remains a fact of life for lesbian and gay Americans—and San Franciscans. Skinheads and Klansmen and neo-Nazis preach hate, but most disturbing is that gay-bashers mostly are the sons and sometimes daughters of ordinary people in our Bay Area—and who have come to accept intolerance as a part of ordinary life.

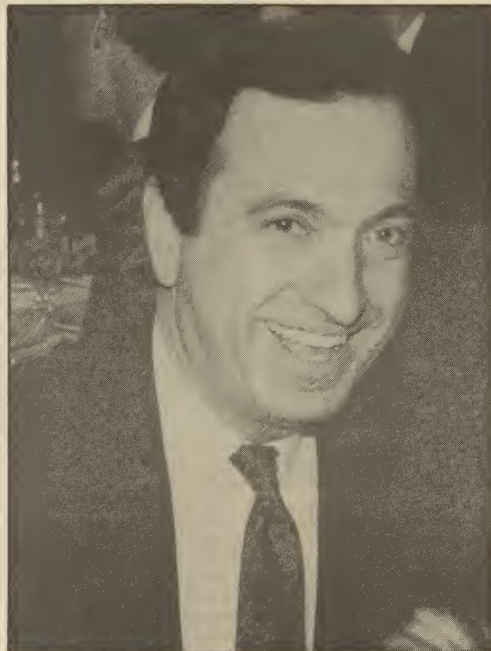
Nor can anti-gay violence be measured simply by counting victims hurt by others. The true picture includes lesbians and gay men, often tragically young, who commit suicide or harm themselves because they have internalized the hatred others signal or become paralyzed at the task of creating a healthy life independent of the hatred around them.

Our silence has been a death sentence for them.

What weighs in the balance against these acts are the tens of thousands of individual acts of courage from lesbians and gay men—coming out, standing up, speaking out, ending the silence.

From my experience, I know it is often an unintentional heroism, born out of desperation to claim their own life in battles that were never of their own choosing.

It is Karen Thompson finding the words to express her relationship with Sharon Kowalski—to



Mayor Art Agnos.

(Photo: Rink)

herself as well as to the courts and the public press.

It is a mother or father battling for custody and visitation rights—making public the ordinariness of their lives in the face of sensational charges.

When the Falwells and others made their charges about "militant homosexuals," it was the face of these ordinary people that I saw before me, pushed to extraordinary lengths to claim their own lives.

The loss of the ordinariness of their life, the ability to decide for yourself how much of your

private feelings you will share—all ripped away because some law, rule or court order demanded it.

That's also a cause for anger, as is the fact that the public so often fails to understand what a price has been paid.

If there were no AIDS epidemic, it would still be understandable if the anger of Stonewall remains two decades later.

But the AIDS epidemic, which has seen the lesbian and gay community's finest hour of compassion and care, has also seen American leadership's worst motives openly displayed.

And it is not over.

The remarkable thing is not that two decades of change still finds that the greatest changes are still ahead.

Two decades is a lifetime—and more than a lifetime for too many in the gay community.

Elected officials, like me, are expected to say soothing words and hope that we can calm such anger. It is so rarely a constructive force, so often destructive to both the community and its targets—intended or otherwise.

And today, two decades later, lesbians and gay men look to San Francisco as they do no other city in America as a place where the dream of a better, more just society can exist.

We have not finished the task of Stonewall, neither in San Francisco nor elsewhere.

But we can see that the steps we march on Market Street do not end at the door of City Hall, but bring a message to the heart of our city and its meaning today. That is why I will be marching

"We have not finished the task of Stonewall, neither in San Francisco nor elsewhere."

That may buy time, but it does not buy an answer. And if Stonewall carries a message today, it is that no one can choose the time or place when injustice finally becomes so intolerable that no soothing words will calm the anger.

The response that Stonewall needs to call forth from those of us in public office is to understand the issues that prompted this quarrel, and to understand that it is impolite to debate equality when we hold power and others are denied a fair share.

To honor Stonewall, we must seek to end the quarrel, not simply transform it into a polite discussion.

Two decades ago, silence was broken on a stretch of pavement in New York City.

Today, lesbians and gay men across the country march and commemorate that event.

with you, and for what we can accomplish together for our city.

The lesbian and gay community has carried the burden of an epidemic of prejudice—and in the past decade, there has been the epidemic of AIDS as well.

As Americans, we are all moved by Chinese students erecting the Goddess of Democracy at Tiananmen Square, and hearing the quote from Lincoln that "Government is by the people, for the people, and of the people."

We recognize the promise of democracy and realize that full participation is not owned by America, but at best we are stewards who have chosen to nurture a vision that belongs to people everywhere. It is not American arrogance that makes that claim, but rather a humbling awareness of how great that vision is and how limited our ability to live it can be.

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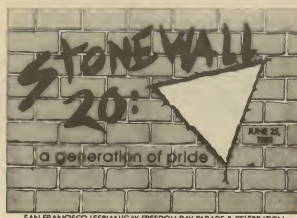
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2009: A Gay Odyssey

A Long Look Forward—But First, a Look Back



Castro Theatre.

(Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

by Frank M. Robinson

To see how long the journey has been and where you might be going, sometimes you have to look back and see where you started from. Not 20 years back to Stonewall, but to the late '50s and early '60s—before the Vietnam War protests, the hippie movement, the feminist movement or even the Free Speech movement.

Back to the happy, contented days of the Truman and Eisenhower administrations, when "fag" and "commie" went together like Hope and Crosby, and the VD clinic in Chicago had a number on the door but not the words "venereal disease." There weren't many "gays" back then, or even many homosexuals. There were johns and hustlers, and that was about it.

If you went to a small college, or even a large university, and made the mistake of coming out to a fellow scholar who turned you down, it was strictly up to you whether you slit your wrists or toughed it out. There was no psychologist on campus who could refer you to a local gay group, and chances were you had no friends in whom you could confide. There were other gays on campus, but you probably never knew them—they were as convinced as you that they were unique and alone.

You dutifully dated, you became great good friends with a few fellow students but were careful never to let them know just how deep your friendship ran. And you lived in constant terror that in the showers after P.E. your body would betray you.

When you graduated, you moved to a large city and eventually you met an older, more experienced gay who introduced you to a few other closeted souls and some of the more reliable hustlers. He also clued you in on the fundamentals of gay life in the big city.

If the city happened to be Chicago, the fundamentals were somewhat daunting. The best cruising spots were Newberry Park—"Bughouse Square"—and the Greyhound bus station. The going price for a hustler was \$20. The best drag show in town was at Sparrow's (featuring Wanda Lust, Artesia Wells and toast-mistress Roby Landers). The best

pick-up bars were on and around Rush Street. Occasionally you went to a party where most of the older gays drank too much and called each other "Mary." If you were interested in one of the few younger men present, you quickly discovered that the basis for a temporary relationship was strictly cash.

That was the up side of gay life.

The down side was that you could be busted for just being in a gay bar having a drink. Once arrested and booked, chances were the *Tribune* or the *Sun-Times* would print a story about the bust, complete with your name, your home address and your place of business. Some of those arrested plea-bargained with God and hung themselves in their cells.

Hustlers were a hazard. The anonymous bar or park pick-up was considered "dangerous to your health"—blackmail was a constant fear of every gay. If you resisted, you risked your life. More than one young murderer got off scot-free once he testified that he had gone to a stranger's

room for a friendly drink and then had to kill him to protect his honor. Killing a fag, in the eyes of the judge and the general public, was justifiable homicide.

A police bust meant you were immediately caught up in Chicago's notorious two-tier justice system. Mayor Daley's contribution to the efficient, well-run metropolis of the '50s. The arresting officer would suggest you contact your alderman for help, which could be had for \$3,500—the set price for moral misdemeanors. The pay-off was distributed among the alderman, the arresting officers, the bailiff of the court and the judge.

You could fight it, but not many lawyers would take a gay case. The legal defense system for gays in Chicago consisted of one lesbian attorney—she was an excellent lawyer, and chances were you'd get off, but there was always the risk of a mug shot in the local press.

Medically, ignorance was the order of the day. One of the advantages of being gay was that, supposedly, you weren't heir to

the usual venereal diseases. When you found out differently, the family doctor was obviously the last one you wanted to visit. Most straight doctors—there were damned few who would admit to being gay—were homophobic and punitive, convinced that a little pain was a positive argument for morality. Few of them wanted to treat gays and even fewer knew how.

That was the ghost of Christmas past. The worst thing in the world to be was a faggot, and the worst thing that could possibly happen was for anybody to find out.

Fortunately, things didn't stay that way. In the early '60s, Illinois became the first state to pass a consensual sex law, though hardly out of sympathy for gays. Corruption in the Chicago police department had become so pervasive that the only cure was to eliminate some of the crimes that bred it. The bill had the prior approval of the Chicago Catholic archdiocese and was debated and passed in relative secrecy—the first anybody knew about it was when they read it in the papers.

San Francisco had its own gay liberation in the middle '60s, but it was the Stonewall riots that changed the face of the country as far as gays were concerned. By the early '70s, gay lib organizations had sprung up on numerous college campuses and graduated from there to citywide organizations. The first gay dance at the Aragon Ballroom in Chicago was packed, younger gays stripping on the dance floor while older ones sat at tables and stared in wide-eyed amazement.

After Stonewall, society changed enormously. But the past never completely vanished, and the tea leaves foretelling the future were there for anybody to read. For many gays, years of oppression had marked them as severely as the Vietnam War had marked some of its veterans. Some actually missed the secrecy and the danger of the '50s and '60s; others found it difficult to establish a relationship without

money to do their talking.

For still others, relative freedom translated into unlimited license. Those who had desperately wished for popularity in high school and college now had a chance to make up for lost time. So many men, so little time, and more than a few danced 'til dawn.

Gay lib quickly consumed its founders, and the members of the early groups fought among themselves. The first split was between the social gays and the political gays. In Chicago, one of the early debates was whether to picket a restaurant in protest over the firing of a gay employee or picket a police station in protest of the 10 o'clock curfew in Lincoln Park. (A wise curfew, considering the nature of most public parks.)

In San Francisco, gays had established a political presence early on. Jose Sarria ran for supervisor in 1961 and got 5,000 votes. After that, gay politicians worked to elect "friendly" straights. Then Harvey Milk, a New York expatriate, came to town and decided to "stir a little shit." He ran for supervisor as an openly gay man, earning the immediate enmity of most Establishment gays. Harvey ran—and ran—and ran, and when district elections were approved, Harvey won.

The first ten years of gay liberation ended a year later with Harvey's murder. For disillusioned gays, it was a reminder that the more things change, the less they change. It was still possible to kill a fag and get off scot-free, or nearly so. Whatever in the world had made them think differently? Indifference had been mistaken for tolerance, and the error was a costly one.

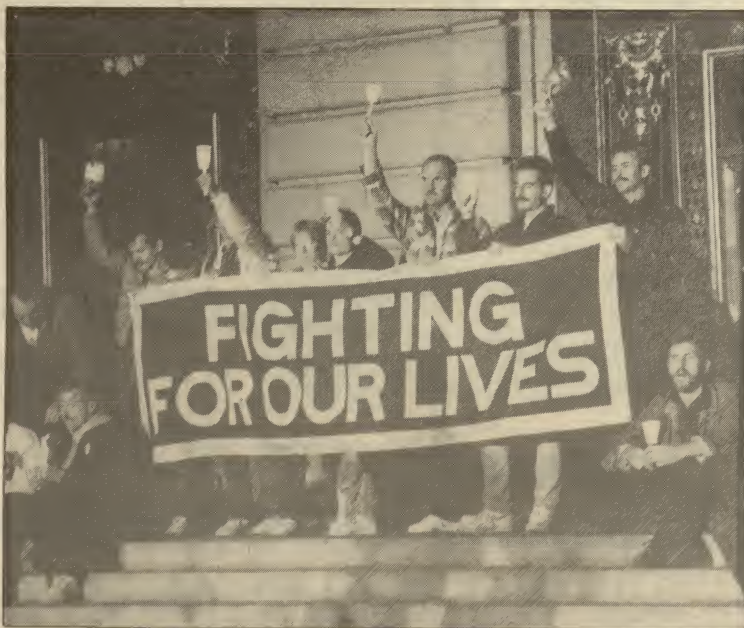
The next ten years could be spelled out in one word: AIDS.

Nobody saw it coming, but still, you didn't have to be a weatherman to know which way the wind was blowing. Probably for the first time in history, a gay man in San Francisco or Manhattan had consistently found it easier and cheaper to get laid than his straight counterpart. It was rock around the clock, but who could blame them? They had lived through years of oppression, and now was the time to party.

Some doctors praised the sexually free lifestyle as a release of inhibition and good for the individual. Other doctors were worried. By the late '70s, enteric diseases such as shigella and amoebas had become epidemic in the gay population. The party was being held downstream instead of up, and the partygoers were paying a price. One medical journal published an article titled "Manhattan: Tropical Isle," warning that diseases usually found only in third-world countries were cropping up in major U.S. cities.

One of the little-known third-world diseases was AIDS. By 1989 it had come close to decimating the gay male population of San Francisco. One in ten were dead, dying, or sick and half the remainder were infected. "Safe Sex" education programs sprang up in the middle and early '80s, and by the end of the decade there was little the gener-

(Continued on next page)



On the steps of City Hall.

(Photo: S. Savage)



(Photo: Rink)

(Continued from previous page)

al public didn't know about gay sexual lifestyles, from the prevalence of drugs and the existence of bathhouses to sexual practices that differ radically from the missionary position. The general public was scared shitless by the disease and appalled by the practices.

The down side of 20 years of gay liberation was, on the one hand, a devastating disease for which there was no vaccine or cure, and, on the other hand, a public relations shambles.

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So where do we go from here?

Science fiction writer L. Sprague de Camp warned years ago that it didn't profit a prophet to be too specific. It's probably wiser to predict a worst- and best-case scenario than to choose the most probable one between.

Medically, the worst case is that they fail to develop a vaccine or a cure and AIDS continues to spread, primarily through third-world countries overseas and among the poor and the injection drug users over here. Without a cure, the future for most of those positive for HIV will be bleak indeed.

The best-case scenario is that the vaccine Jonas Salk is researching actually works, and that Compound Q, or something like it, turns out to be an inexpensive cure, and that one shot will do it.



Gerry Studds (Photo: Rink)

The best guess is that neither one of those scenarios will hold. Various drugs will limp onto the scene that will help with the various diseases associated with AIDS and enable those infected to live relatively normal lives. Eventually, a vaccine will probably be developed.

That's not too bad a scenario—for western countries. For third-world countries and the poor in this one, it's a disaster. Any medical maintenance program is relatively expensive, which means for many countries it's out of the question. In any case, a vaccine is probably years away, and barring a cure, considering the projected levels of infectivity in Africa and elsewhere, some third-world countries may actually see a population decline.

Pray that Compound Q works.

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Predicting sexual lifestyles 20 years from now is strictly a game for suckers, but the temptation is irresistible. In this case, there is no worst- or best-case scenario since so much is personal opinion.

One scenario postulates that Compound Q turns out to be the magic bullet and is cheap and effective. With a simple cure, the party starts all over again, somebody invents a legal version of poppers, and posh bathhouses once again have waiting lines. The second scenario is that serial monogamy becomes the order of the day, gay marriages become both legal and popular, and those laws restricting adoption by gays are voided so you wind up with the gay version of a straight family.

Each scenario seems far-fetched, but portions of each are already with us. A few *sub rosa* sex clubs exist now, and the trend to "backslide" from the restrictions of safe sex is growing. Will gays, as a group, revert to the hedonism of yesterday? Very doubtful. The scars left by AIDS are far too deep, the fear too entrenched.

There's another element that few seem to have touched upon. Sexual congress is absolutely one of the very best ways to transmit communicable diseases. Caution will still be the watchword of the future for the simple reason that nobody knows that other diseases may be breeding in the darker regions of Africa.

As for the other scenario, examples also exist today. One of

the most compelling was that of Tom Waddell and Sara Lowenstein and their daughter Jessica. Many gays love children, many would like to have children, many have children already. Will gay men and lesbians cooperate to have children in the future, with their lovers serving as surrogate aunts and uncles?

By 2009, such families may be commonplace.

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The real up side of the first 20 years of gay liberation was on the political side. After Harvey's death, many observers were prepared to write off gay politics. No way. Harvey had served as an example that openly gay candidates could run for public office and win, and many gays since have followed his example.

By 2009, the gay presence in some cities may be strong enough to elect municipal officials as high as mayor. In far more cities, gays will be strong enough to exercise veto power over political candidates whom they dislike. One of the fallouts from the plague has been that both the stay-at-home gay and the social gay have been politicized. When the community speaks with one voice, few organized political parties on the local level can match it.

On the national scene, gay politicians are no longer a novelty, though most of them were in place before their gayness was known. Even so, Gerry Studds and Barney Frank won reelection handily, a tribute to their courage in facing down the opposition—and an acknowledgment by this constituents of the degree of clout that they have that a newly elected representative wouldn't. Electoral self-interest probably played a bigger part than tolerance for lifestyle.

Will politicians be running for national office in 2009 as open gays? Of course—but don't look for too many to get elected. It will depend on national attitudes toward gays at the time, and much of that will depend on how far into the past the plague has receded. The tendency to blame it on gays has diminished, but the doubt and uneasiness remain.

On the local scene, there'll be many more openly gay elected officials. For the most part, those in office now are highly respected. And the gay political infrastructure has become far more efficient and professional. Gays are better organized than blacks or Asians or Hispanics, are more likely to turn out on election day, and have more money to spend on political causes.

And for many gays, politics has become a lifestyle all its own.

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In terms of media, gays have made enormous strides in the past and will probably continue to do so. Coverage in most newspapers has become much more extensive and even-handed, and gays even have a small press all their own. Television coverage has also become more extensive,

(Continued on page 56)



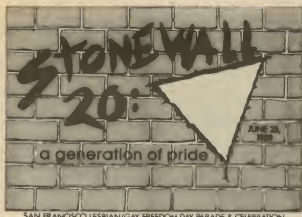
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Looking Forward to 2009

The Political Agenda in the Years to Come

by Tom Nolan,
Member, Board of Supervisors, San Mateo County

In 1969, Stonewall came and went totally unnoticed by me. I was studying systematic theology, ecclesiastical history, and Hebrew. I was thoroughly involved in the anti-war movement and in the civil rights struggle in North Carolina.

"Political theology" was a leading mode of thought at Duke University, where I was studying, and the fundamental notion of that approach is that in Matthew 25 lies the key to salvation, namely, feeding the hungry, healing the sick and suffering, liberating the captives, siding with the oppressed of the earth.

I recall writing my own *Summa Theologica* in 1969, outlining the dynamics of liberation. I suggested that for the individual to be free she or he needs to be free in every important aspect of individual life and that she or he should be free in every important aspect of communal life. Freedom thus entailed, in my view, the removal of all the shackles of oppression from within and from without.

While my world has since grown to include my own acknowledgement of, and indeed my own pride in myself, as a gay man—a realization that has profoundly altered my view of many aspects of life—I still subscribe to the basic framework I wrote about in 1969. It was, in effect, a blueprint for personal and communal liberation.

In reflecting on this piece for the *Bay Area Reporter*, I found the synthesis between the individual and personal and the communal to be a helpful framework in offering some thoughts on the next 20 years for lesbians and gay men. That is to say, our personal and collective natures. Neither individual rights nor communal rights can be neglected if we are ever to be truly free.

While the thrust of this essay is on the future of our movement, I believe we must acknowledge with enormous gratitude that we are where we are today because of the strength, energy, and great courage of countless known and unknown lesbians and gay men throughout history. I am deeply moved by stories of the men and women who dared to be themselves long before Stonewall, at a time when there were no legal protections at all. I am profoundly aware that we are standing on the shoulders of giants in many, many ways.

Adrienne Rich has written of "the forces that rage against us from within and from without." Let me suggest that first we must always look to ourselves individually as we consider moving beyond the oppressive forces raging against us. Pogo, it will be recalled, said, "We have met the enemy and they are us." A clear, deliberate, and courageous look at our own lives is in order as a beginning. That examination needs to continue on a lifelong basis.

What are the things that oppress us? Some are obvious: drugs and alcohol. Some are more subtle, but equally destructive: internalized homophobia, manifested all too often in our

community in a myriad of ways. Destructive interpersonal and familial relationships are a way of life for far too many of us. And of the destructive and oppressive forces that rage against us, none are ultimately more personally or politically harmful than those that keep so very many of us hidden deep within our closets.

"We have far too many enemies from without to afford ourselves the luxury of enemies from within."

The organizations in our community that deal with these and all the other personal problems that plague us individual deserve our strong and generous support. All of the political breakthroughs we could possibly desire will mean little to the member of our community still enslaved by her or his own personal demon. My hope is that the agencies, groups, and individuals working in this area will be strengthened and that the resources will be found to allow them to carry on, and grow to meet challenges ahead.

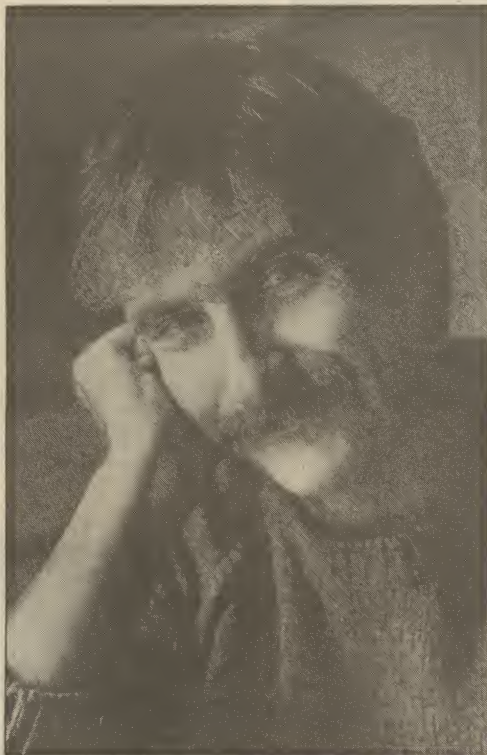
My hope also is that the models of service provided here in the San Francisco Bay Area will be exported to all parts of the country. My hope is that in the next 20 years programs will be available to lesbians and gay men wherever they are and whenever there is a need.

We have far too many enemies from without to afford ourselves the luxury of enemies from within.

On the communal front, our agenda should be several-fold. We should enhance and perfect the model society that San Francisco, and to a large degree the Bay Area, has become as a home for lesbians and gay men. And we should seek to help create the liberation we have obtained here in all parts of the state and the country.

Several years ago, I attended "the War Conference" in Virginia. It was a gathering of lesbian and gay leaders, summoned to consider a strategic plan for dealing with the assaults on our community. That meeting helped us mobilize against the threats we are facing today. I believe now that we need to develop an ongoing local leadership group that will seek to examine our collective life in its many aspects and to provide possible direction for community action. As I envision a leadership council, I see it as a regular gathering of thoughtful, concerned lesbians and gay men, with or without title or position, individuals who are interested in dreaming dreams of liberation and in working to achieve results for our community.

Why is this important? Because I see San Francisco as more than a place for lesbians and gay men. It is, in fact, an idea, a vision, a dream in many important respects. Day-to-day life here may not be perfect, but we only need recall whence we came to make the point. What



Supervisor Tom Nolan.

most of us have inherited in this area is now in need of its next phase as we become the guardians of something significant for ourselves and also, at least symbolically, for lesbians and gay men throughout the world. We are, in fact, "the city on the hill," shining for all the world to see, yet we are aware of deficiencies in our community.

Action such as domestic partners legislation needs to be strengthened to guarantee genuine equality for all. It needs to be extended throughout the area and to all employment situations. Our political agenda over the next 20 years should include serious, well-financed lesbian and gay candidates for public office without restriction. The need in Sacramento and Washington is far too great to be ignored. We need to nurture our own, to support our own.

On a personal note, let me tell you that four-and-a-half years as a County Supervisor has absolutely convinced me that there is no substitute for having our own place at the table. The kindness of strangers and friends alike is no substitute for helping ourselves.

A community agenda of mine would be for us to develop a greater tolerance and, indeed, respect for the diversity of thought, action, and style that exists within our own community. The essence of our community, it seems to me, is love and our ability to love one another. Everything else, in John Calvin's words, is "adiaphora," or non-essential. The vision we share is more important than those things which divide us. In short, the wide and beautiful range we see within our community on Gay Freedom Day needs to become more of the reality every day.

Another thrust of our next 20 years of liberation should be our endeavor to extend beyond the Bay the achievements we have inherited, embraced, and enhanced here. Our sisters and brothers in much of this country are years, if not decades, behind in achieving the level of human rights we have here. My thesis is that none of us can be free finally if the boundaries of that freedom extend no further than the San Francisco Bay Area.

The struggle for the rights of lesbians and gay men needs to be joined universally by all of us. The oppression of our own individual states, the federal government, employers, religious organizations—in every manifestation, oppression must be systematically approached, fought, and defeated. Rather than seeing ourselves as isolated from the struggle many of us left behind, we need to be involved in those struggles, supportive of the courageous men and women who are fighting for our rights in the small towns, in major corporations and the halls of Congress.

Our gains should not be a source of self-satisfaction but a source of strength for helping others.

As we look outward to our sisters and brothers throughout the country, I think we need also to reflect on what I view as our prophetic mission to our larger society. Our whole *raison d'être* as a community is love. There really is nothing other than that that ultimately binds us together. Our heterogeneity is wildly apparent on Gay Freedom Day, but in the last analysis, our determination to love and to do so freely is the very foundation of our community. What a message, what an example that is for all the world!

I believe that the advances we make for ourselves have a direct correlation with the advances the larger society makes. Our liberation is a keystone for societal liberation. If we are free, everyone is freed because our liberation is so very personal in nature, and therefore, so very human.

Thus I see the next 20 years as having an agenda that includes continued emphasis on personal growth and liberation, a continued and intensified effort to enhance the San Francisco model for lesbian and gay liberation, and a reaching out beyond the Bay Area to assist in the struggles of our sisters and brothers throughout the country—indeed, throughout the world. I see us bringing a wide variety of gifts to the struggle, and I see heroic efforts and achievements.

Let me conclude on two personal notes: one on AIDS, one on my role as a politician.

When reflecting on the next 20 years, I hope and pray to God that AIDS will be abolished from the face of the earth. The pain, suffering, and loss AIDS has brought to our community are almost too much to bear. Those who have died, and those who will die before this insidious epidemic ends, can never be replaced in our hearts, in our lives. Our loss is forever.

Our community deserves the Nobel Prize and much, much more for the leadership it has shown in the face of this relentless epidemic. We have shown ourselves to be the kind of genuine community that families, religions, and nations aspire to become.

May we have the strength to continue fighting the likes of LaRouche, Dannemeyer, Doolittle, and all who would cash in on this plague. May we have the strength to continue our professional and volunteer roles in researching, educating, and caring.

And my deepest hope is that one day soon this horrid nightmare will end and that whoever writes a piece like this 20 years from now will not even have to consider AIDS as a factor in the agenda for the 20 years beyond that.

And, finally, let me say that holding public office as an openly gay man is the greatest privilege of my life. The office I hold is important in and of itself, but it is also important as a symbol for our community. It is the gift I bring to our community. When I was elected to the office of Supervisor in San Mateo County, I insisted that I would accept nothing short of full participation in the life of San Mateo County. Full, unfettered participation in the life of our total community, our state, our nation, our world is my ultimate goal for each of us in our own way, on our own terms.

We are where we are today because of the heroic work of so many of our courageous sisters and brothers. Let the next 20 years see us take our rightful place in our movement and in our world. ▼

Marching Into the Future

Domestic Partnerships
Are a Model for the Nation



Supervisor Angela Alioto.

(Photo: Rink)

by Angela Alioto
Member, San Francisco Board of Supervisors

Twenty years ago, when gay men and lesbians protested outside the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village, my father, Joseph Alioto, was the mayor of San Francisco. The lesbian and gay freedom movement had not yet gained momentum in San Francisco. Thousands hid in the closet for fear of retribution. Gay rights legislation would have been laughed out of City Hall.

By 1988, San Francisco had experienced a political revolution. Lesbians and gay men had dramatically shifted the city's political framework. Supporting the rights of lesbians and gay men had become mainstream politics. Supervisor Harry Britt garnered the most votes in last fall's Board of Supervisors race, winning the right to become the first gay president of the board. By San Francisco standards, politicians who were once seen as mainstream are now viewed as conservatives. Former Mayor Alioto endorsed Supervisor Britt in his reelection campaign.

The stage was set for the next step: bringing to fruition landmark civil rights legislation. Last month, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved domestic partners legislation. Despite recognition that the city might face national ridicule, we were ready to stand up for what is right. We hope Harry's legislation will inspire other cities to follow our lead.

We in San Francisco see ourselves as a model for what can be accomplished when progressive politics dominates the city's agenda. When the winds of national politics shift direction, I am confident that once again we will be on the cutting edge of national politics.

In San Francisco, gay rights proponents had made the transition from being outsiders demanding change of those in power to being insiders demanding that the laws of the city recognize them as equals. The fight for domestic partners no longer faced united opposition from the straight community. Instead, proponents had gathered moral momentum by successfully placing their arguments in the context of the fight for civil justice, thereby gaining the upper hand in their battle against the remnants of the older order.

I hope that many of those in San Francisco who voiced their opposition to domestic partners will eventually see the merits of the cause. Perhaps they will cease viewing domestic partnerships as a threat to the straight family unit, accepting gay and lesbian families as their equals. As for the rest of the country, I hope they will follow our example.

The ordinance we passed in San Francisco is the first step toward recognizing permanent partnerships in non-traditional families. Under current law, hospitals have prevented people from visiting their loved ones if they are not "family." Our new law will ensure that no one will be denied the right to see his or her lover in the hospital once both have signed the Declaration of Domestic Partnership.

The next step will be the formation of a task force to examine ways to allow city employees to add their domestic partners to their health benefits plan. Chaired by civil rights attorney Roberta Achtenberg, the task force will be responsible for drawing up the plans to implement

(Continued on page 58)

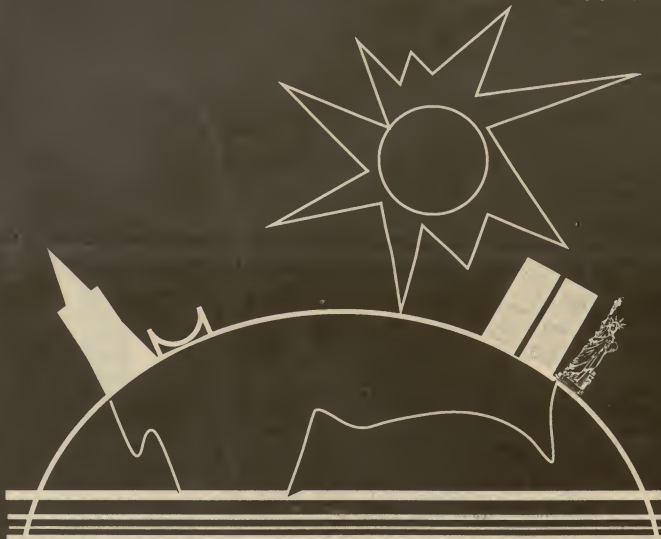
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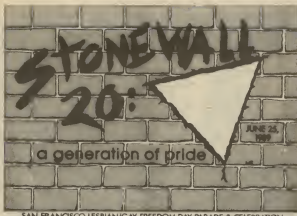
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Dancing Away the Decades

The Quake, the German, the White Angel, the Two-Step

by Darrell Yates Rist

The following passage is excerpted with permission from Heartlands: A Gay Man's Odyssey Across America, which will be published by E.P. Dutton in the fall of 1990. In this section, the author and his friend Rob, of San Francisco, have decided on a whim to pay a visit to the annual Chili Cook-Off at the Rawhide.

By the time we'd walked down Market Street to 7th and over to Harrison, a crowd of cowboys were airing their meals outside, hats pushed back, one boot soled flat against the wall, proudly rubbing their bellies in comfort. Inside, from a TV screen that overhung the bar, Dolly Parton watched competing men stand by their chili bowls and, turned down, sang mum: the announcement of the prizes had begun. "Gentlemen," the emcee cried, "please stay by your dishes." There was a gritty shuffling of boots as the anxious audience arranged itself around the pool table, converted to buffet.

Number 2 was thick, chunky with beef, and mild. Number 5, in the metal bowl, was sweet. Number 7, the big iron pot, was Mexican spiced. Number 12 was Puerto Rican, a crock pot soupy with sliced green peppers, tomatoes, onions, and beans—sweet when it hit the lips, tangy in the aftertaste. "Number 12, where are you? Please step up." Manuel took his place behind his bowl, received his \$100 with a handshake, smiled as the flash went off, first place.

The music twanged, Shelly West's cowboy contralto. "Jose Cuervo, you are a friend of mine. I'd like to drink you with a little salt and lime." The dancing began with a rapid scuffle, a swirling, two-stepping circle of paired straw hats, followers' brims tilted out to accommodate the leaders. "Did I kiss all the cowboys? Did I shoot out the lights? Did I dance on the bar? Did I start any fights?" Backs as erect as ranch hands', hands clasped high, arms rounding waists and shoulders in tight embrace, legs and hips as nimble and strong as horses in a trot, riding heels drumming the floor.

"...Who's the cowboy who's sleepin' beside me? He's awful cute. How'd I get his shirt on? I had too much tequila last night." A short, chubby couple moved together perfectly, leg for leg, crotch for crotch, their boots stomping, sliding, kicking, pivoting in flawless rhythm in a cowboy pirouette, partner turning partner round and round—mating's ritual dance. "...All those little shooters, how I love to drink 'em down!" Their full red faces shined.

"Look at their faces," Rob nudged me with his elbow excitedly. "Do you have any doubt what real power is when you see that?" As though distracted by the thought, he stared a moment more, and spoke too softly. "What?" I asked. "I think our survivors," he said, still watching the couple take the floor, "the ones who survive this epidemic, will possess all the magic of wizards." "...You're my friend. You're the best, mi amigo..."

Across from me, a little old man's white hair turned pink and blue, orange, green, and silver in the light from the mirror ball above the dance floor. In time he stood beside me. He had a handsome, slender face and luminous eyes, sky blue. He wore a string tie clasped by a silver brooch, from which a blue stone gleamed. The collar points of this blood-red shirt were clamped in silver. His jacket was red leather, his red boots were made of lizard skin. His name, he said, was Eric.

"Do you dance?" he asked.

"Not as well as these guys," I replied.

"Would you like a partner?" I nodded. "I'll have to strap this to my bike," he answered, turning his shoulder to the light to reveal the bright red motorcycle helmet he held beneath his arm. "Would you like to join me for some air?" Curious, I followed.

A huge black Honda Gold Wing was parked in front of the bar. Cowboys admired it, its round, shiny gas tank beaming back their faces like a polished carbon ball. "You're not a regular at the bar," Eric said, excusing his way through the crowd of men around his bike. "Are you from out of town?"

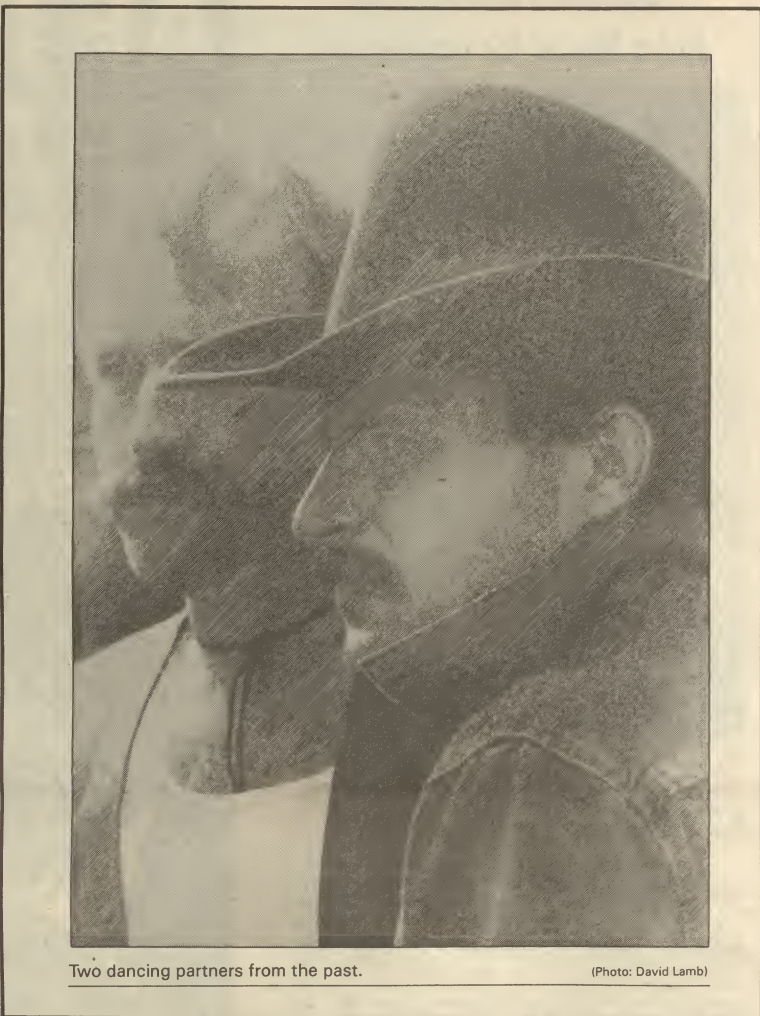
"New York. It take it you come here often."

"I ride in once or twice a week—to dance. I live across the bay," he added, as if to explain the infrequency. He hadn't lived in San Francisco proper (I harried him with questions) since the '06 quake. He was four years old then. "Our house didn't burn," he said, waving his hand northwest. "We didn't live far from here. Webster Street. But the place was shaking so bad you could feel it hitting against the house next door. I can remember—I had a French governess at the time—she came running into the living room waving her hands and screaming, 'The end of the world is coming.' Right away, we went across the bay to Belvedere, because the rest of the city was on fire, and you had no idea how close it was going to come."

The family stayed in Marin, but Eric spent most of his childhood in Europe—Bern, Zurich, Toledo—and then (my queries were unrelenting) he went to live in Germany. "Oh," he sighed, "the Berlin gay bars, the dance halls. You could rent private boxes and have a beau in for a visit. Everything was very open."

Somewhere about this time (I didn't catch), Eric's Rolls Royce was stolen. But that luxury ended anyway in 1933, when he and his German lover, who'd opposed the Nazis in Koenigsburg, fled to France. From there they ventured to Tahiti, where after a year the White Angel, as she was known, a San Francisco lady, offered to take them to the States aboard her yacht. They were three months at sea in a 36-foot ketch.

When they landed, there were problems with the German's papers—or some such thing I lost in Eric's answer to a cowboy's question about his bike, or gears, or motor. At least I heard him say, "We started looking for places in the world where he could go."



Two dancing partners from the past.

(Photo: David Lamb)

Eric sent him to Shanghai on a freighter and when he went to visit him decided to stay, 1935-1938, to run Sir Victor Sassoon's club.

"Shanghai was an international city back then," Eric remembered. "People lived like royalty—summer houses and winter houses with 15 or 20 servants. Everyone had cars and yachts. They went out every single night. I performed"—Eric is a pianist and singer—"and had the most wonderful lovers. The Corps of Marines was over there. I always had a Marine sitting next to me at the piano." In '37 the Japanese started bombing Shanghai. "The American ships stopped coming, the tourist ships and the nightlife fell off." Eric came back to the States in '38 and went on a six-month bicycle trip through Mexico.

"And your German lover?" I asked.

"He left Shanghai in 1939 to go back to Germany for a visit, and they caught him. I found out, shortly before the Nazis walked into Poland, that he was in the Luftwaffe. I was in the Navy and got in touch with him after the war. Then, two years ago, I stayed with him in East Germany. Of course," he quickly explained, "he's not gay anymore. He's married and has children. He married a Hungarian actress.

"But there's no catch with his

family whatsoever. They don't know we were lovers. He and I can still talk about it, though, when the two of us are alone. It's just that I know he's been a friend since '33," he said with quiet amazement. "That's more than 50 years. And now," he brightened, "I have a lover 60 years younger than I am. He's 6'4"!" He checked his watch. "I should be meeting him soon. Would you like to dance?"

He ushered me through the cowboys and back onto the floor. "Do you want to lead?" he asked. "I'm still learning," I answered. The top of his snow-white head was just below my eyes. "Stand tall and keep your shoulders quiet," he instructed. "I'll guide you with my hand." He held my right hand high and hugged me tight around the waist, covering the small of my back with his palm. "Slow, slow, quick-quick, slow, slow, quick-quick," he chanted the two-step to me, stepping off. With the warmest pressure from his fingertips at the bottom of my spine, he began to sweep me through the counterpoint of couples on the floor, or, lifting his arm, he turned me away on the sole of my boot, then swirled me again through the arch to his embrace.

When the dance ended, he roared away across the Bay Bridge on his bike to meet his lover on his. Eric has five motorcycles, all of different powers. ▼

Hongisto

(Continued from page 44)

Vigil, police should have advocated the right of people with AIDS to maintain this demonstration.

Police departments should reflect the diversity of people who comprise their towns. With this diversity should be a commitment never to yield to injustice or bigotry. We have come a long way in San Francisco. Our law enforcement agencies are much more representative of the larger community. I take great pride in launching the nation's first recruitment program to bring open lesbians and gays into law enforcement. It was a magnificently controversial and bold thing to do in the early 1970s. But it was the absolutely right thing to do. Moving our police agencies from regressive institutions to social justice advocates may also be bold. But it is a concept that can give us all hope for the future.

We all should take pride in our achievements. Let us never forget our losses or painful moments. The state of police and gay relations is immensely better than pre-Stonewall. But there is much to be done.

Best wishes on 20 years of pride and progress. ▼

Never Turn Back

Through the Years with The Lesbian/Gay Community

by Milton Marks
California State Senate, Third District

The lesbian/gay movement has made impressive gains during my years in public office. This has been most gratifying. We have worked together to achieve these goals. Through increased visibility and effective political activism, lesbians and gay men have empowered themselves and promoted the basic human rights of all people. In the process, issues of sexism, homophobia and racism have been brought to the attention of the general public, public policy makers and the court system. Attitudes have changed, and positive public policy affirming lesbians and gay men has been enacted throughout the country. Nonetheless, discrimination against lesbians and gay men remains pervasive, and we must continue the lesbian/gay movement's outstanding tradition of fighting discrimination wherever it is found.

When I was first elected to the California State Assembly in 1958, the lesbian/gay community was much less visible than it is today. Lesbians and gay men suffered harassment and arrest when socializing at bars and clubs, and many people lived in fear that they would lose their jobs if their sexual orientation were discovered. Most politicians did not perceive lesbians and gay men as an important constituency, despite the advocacy of organizations such as the Daughters of Bilitis and, later, the Society for Individual Rights and the Council on Religion and the Homosexual. Public policy concerning lesbians and gay men remained primarily punitive in nature.

The civil rights movement of the 1960s marked a fundamental change in the relation of government and non-mainstream political constituencies. No longer could the government ignore the obvious reality of discrimination in our society. The resulting Civil Rights Act and the numerous court decisions upholding civil rights dealt a severe blow to institutionalized racism and sexism as well as the social acceptability of holding racist and sexist attitudes. Of equal importance was the civil rights movement's empowerment of disenfranchised groups. Through organization and mobilization, civil rights groups became decisive constituencies that could swing elections. Office holders responded to the concerns of the civil rights movement, and the focus of public policy changed dramatically in the 1960s to include discrimination, poverty and the hierarchies of American society.

The events of the 1960s were the springboard for many of the major social movements of the 1970s, including the gay liberation movement and the women's movement. Gay liberation activities, including the ever-growing Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade, demonstrated the strength and diversity of the lesbian/gay community. With the growing politicization of the lesbian/gay community and the establishment of gay political clubs, a new political force was making itself heard, and San Francisco political leaders reached out to lesbians and gay men as



Senator Milton Marks.

never before to work with them and to obtain endorsements and campaign support.

The emergence of the lesbian/gay political community has had a profound effect on San Francisco and the entire country. Candidates for public office in locations with sizable populations of lesbians and gay men cannot ignore their concerns. Friends of the gay community can count on strong support. The election of George Moscone as mayor and the signing into law of the consenting adults legislation, which I co-authored, dramatically demonstrated the power of the lesbian/gay community in local and state politics. AB1, which would have prohibited discrimination in employment based on sexual orientation, was also passed by the legislature before being vetoed by Governor Deukmejian. These impressive victories established a network of coalitions between minority groups, the lesbian/gay community and liberals/progressives which still play a vital role in San Francisco politics.

The election of pro-gay public officials and the passage of constructive public policy was an important step forward for the lesbian/gay community and increased the community's access to the legislative process. At the same time, the lack of openly lesbian and gay elected officials was clearly underscored. Today, the lesbian/gay community is representing itself and is an active force in shaping the public policy which affects us all.

Not all of my colleagues in the state legislature share this perspective. As a former Republican, I can attest to the wide-

spread discrimination which permeates our political system. Most of my Republican colleagues were unwilling to address the concerns of lesbians and gay men. Some advocated criminal sanctions or psychologists; more were disinterested in advocating for the human rights of a group they considered unimportant.

Harvey Milk's remarkable election to the Board of Supervisors in 1978 debunked the myth that openly gay people could not win elective office and greatly empowered the entire lesbian/gay community. Today we have many openly gay elected officials and appointed commissioners, including the president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Harry Britt; Community College Board member Tim Wolfred; San Mateo County Supervisor Tom Nolan; Congressman Barney Frank; and Democratic County Central Committee Chair Carole Migden. Lesbians and gay men wage strong campaigns for nearly every elective office in San Francisco, and openly lesbian and gay male candidates and elected officials throughout the country have demonstrated that their sexual orientation does not prevent them from winning election to public office.

In addition to achieving public office, lesbians and gay men have shaped the political landscape by working on the staffs of elected officials. I was one of the first legislators to hire openly gay staff members, and in 1986 became the first state legislator to hire an openly lesbian staff member. Having aides sensitive to lesbian/gay issues is essential to adequately serving the needs of the community and further empowers the community.

By the early 1980s, the lesbian/gay community had achieved remarkable gains. No longer a hidden minority, lesbians and gay men in all walks of life openly lived their lives and demanded their fundamental human rights. Repressive statutes were repealed, and many communities enacted anti-discrimination laws. Political leaders courted the gay vote, and lesbian and gay community leaders helped shape the public policy in most of this country's urban centers.

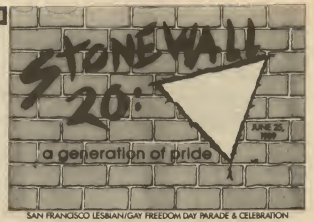
AIDS has challenged the hard-won gains of the lesbian/gay movement. By raising issues of sexuality and mortality, an anti-gay backlash has developed, and AIDS has been used as a tool to oppress lesbians and gay men. The lesbian/gay community has taken the lead in effectively and compassionately addressing the AIDS epidemic. The health professions, business and government, as well as countless members of all communities, have also responded with finances and strong support to eradicate this horrendous epidemic. Groups such as the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, the Lobby for Individual Freedom (LIFE), Mobilization Against AIDS, and ACTUP have helped shape our response to AIDS and have risen above the petty opportunism and insensitivity of some AIDS policy makers in the state and federal legislatures.

One of my staff witnessed an

appalling incident in the State Assembly which dramatically illustrates how AIDS and homophobia are intertwined and active in California politics. During a debate in 1987 on a comprehensive piece of AIDS legislation, an Assemblymember posed the question of whether AIDS could be transmitted by insects. Several Assemblymembers proceeded to dance around the chambers, waving their arms, asking "Do gay mosquitos have limp wings?" Clearly, homophobia is alive in some parts of the state legislature.

Twenty years ago, a group of brave people in Greenwich Village stood up to the harassment of the police and society and said enough is enough. Today the second-highest elected public official in San Francisco is a gay man. Yet, there are no openly gay state Assemblymembers or Senators. Violence against lesbians and gay men continues to escalate. People with AIDS are dying, and the government drags its feet in developing and testing effective treatments for HIV infection.

The lesbian/gay community must continue to fight for its rights and force society to address basic human rights issues some would rather ignore. I am proud to have played a role in advancing the lesbian/gay movement, and I will continue to work to help empower lesbians and gay men. We must never turn back. ▼



SAN FRANCISCO LESBIAN/GAY FREEDOM DAY PARADE & CELEBRATION



Resolution Commemorates Gay Freedom Week

The State Senate Rules Committee has issued the following resolution by Senator Milton Marks (D-San Francisco/Marin) commemorating Lesbian/Gay Freedom Week:

WHEREAS, Lesbian/Gay Freedom Week will be celebrated in San Francisco from June 16 to June 25; and

WHEREAS, The theme of this year's celebration is "Stonewall 20: A Generation of Pride" in honor of the 20th anniversary of the historic Stonewall uprising in New York City, which symbolically marks the beginning of the Lesbian/Gay Liberation Movement;

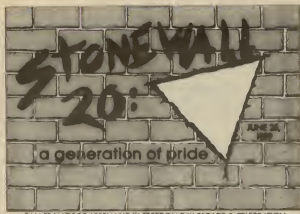
WHEREAS, Lesbian/Gay Freedom Week commences with the internationally acclaimed Lesbian/Gay Film Festival and concludes with the annual Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade, which attracts visitors

from all over the world and affirms the vitality and diversity of the lesbian/gay community;

WHEREAS, Lesbians and gay men provide outstanding leadership and community service and have been at the forefront of fighting for the human rights of all people;

WHEREAS, Lesbian/Gay Freedom Week demonstrates that bigotry and discrimination are unacceptable and empowers lesbians and gay men to live openly, proudly and with dignity; therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE, That the Members congratulate the lesbian/gay community on the celebration of Lesbian/Gay Freedom Week, commend the lesbian/gay community for its outstanding achievements in furtherance of human rights and wish all the participants a joyous Lesbian/Gay Freedom Week. ▼



A Burning Issue

Gay Civil Rights and the Surge of Affirmation

by Alan Cranston
U.S. Senate Majority Whip

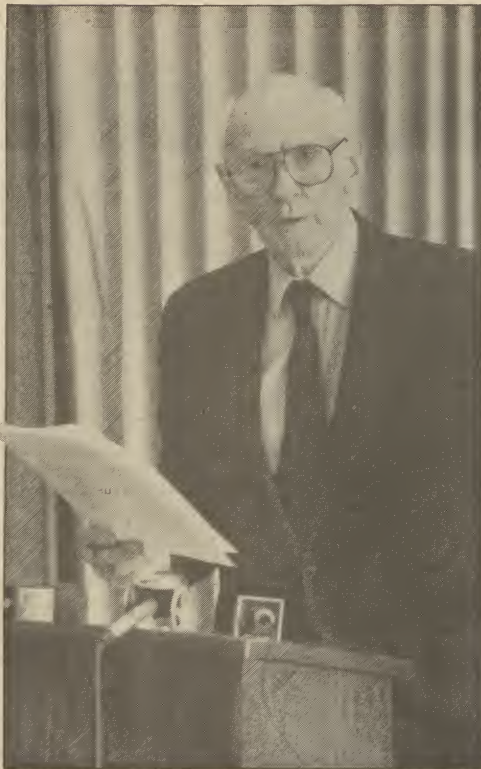
When I entered politics, civil rights was a smoldering issue not yet burst into flames. In the conflagration of the sixties, our target was discrimination on the basis of race. Out of those valiant battles also came the fight for women's rights and the fight for the rights of the disabled. The country came to understand that no person could be excluded from the definition of a free American.

With the Stonewall rebellion ten years later, the dialogue of civil rights again advanced. From that moment on, gays and lesbians became a force to be reckoned with. The country was on notice that freedom from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation was also a vital right. There was no going back.

Stonewall was a decision simply not to take it anymore. It was the first step toward freedom that is powered by the anger of a newly-owned self respect. It was a splendid surge of affirmation, the kind that comes when an irrevocable step is taken: coming out.

Obscured by AIDS and violence against gays, the tremendous advances won in twenty years of struggle by the lesbian and gay community are sometimes hard to see. But the truth is that it has taken far longer for other minority communities to achieve comparable advances. Over half the states have decriminalized private homosexual acts. Communities across America have gay rights laws, where none existed twenty years ago. There are gay elected officials at all levels of government, including the Congress. The growing tendency is for politicians of both political parties to seek out gay leaders rather than to close their doors to them.

In spite of this significant progress, gays and lesbians still are strangers in the land. We live in a country that knows very little about gays, and which relies



Senator Alan Cranston.

(Photo: S. Savage)

more on stereotypes than on fact. Gays make up an estimated 10 percent of the population; there are almost as many gays as blacks, three times as many gays as Jews, and half again as many gays as Hispanics. Yet over 50 percent of respondents in a 1985 *Los Angeles Times* national poll said they didn't know anyone who was gay!

Ignorance is costly, and it is seldom passive. In the same *Times* poll, one in four thought that AIDS was God's punishment for homosexual sex. When Roper asked in 1987 which of 22

"special interest groups" had too much influence, 48 percent said gay rights groups. Over 70 percent thought that living in homosexual relationships was wrong. In fact, according to Gallup, the number of Americans against "legalization of homosexuality" is on the rise—from 39 percent in 1982 to 47 percent in 1985. In the 1985 *Times* poll, close to a third of the respondents said they would not allow an "admitted homosexual" to make a speech in their community. Another 40 percent would not permit a favorable book on homosexuality in public libraries.

Ignorance and prejudice are powerful impediments to human freedom. With generations of young Americans being raised in households where homophobic views are strongly held and articulated, it is small wonder that a 1987 federal report found that gays are probably the most frequent victims of hate violence, most of it perpetrated by young men. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force reported more than 7,200 incidents of violence and verbal harassment against gays last year alone.

are visibility and action. Visibility is vitally important. If 10 percent of the population were to stand up and be counted, what a powerful force for freedom that would be! The existence of large numbers of blacks, Hispanics, and Asian-Americans in our society is self-evident. We know where they live, we think we know how they vote. No one in political life dismisses the importance of these minority voters. Yet many people in Congress don't even know that they have gay constituents. Many believe—wrongly—

"Ignorance and prejudice are powerful impediments to human freedom."

—Sen. Alan Cranston

Throughout our history, homophobia has been passed along from generation to generation virtually unchallenged. And so the Jess Helmses of the world ride high.

The struggle for gay and lesbian rights has brought significant change in a relatively short period of time. More change will come when leaders of government talk openly and positively of the millions of gay Americans, when schools are free to deal compassionately with the issues that face gay and lesbian youth, and when we have extended to gays the same protections against discrimination in jobs and in housing we extend to other Americans.

None of these changes will come easily, nor will they come if the homophobic attitudes that underlie anti-gay discrimination are left unchallenged at the grassroots level. The force that Stonewall unleashed was the power of coming out, serving notice on Americans that millions of their neighbors are gay.

For lesbians and gays, the keys of changing society's attitudes

that voting in the interest of gays would be political suicide back home.

A decade ago, when Californians faced one of the first anti-gay ballot initiatives—the so-called Briggs initiative on gay teachers—a *Chronicle* poll reported that some 60 percent of respondents who said they knew gays also favored gay civil rights. Conversely, 60 percent of those who said they didn't know any gays or lesbians disapproved of gay rights.

Gay Pride days all across America offer an opportunity not only to affirm the vibrance of the nationwide gay and lesbian community. It is also an opportunity for individuals to decide to take action to make sure that that one-tenth of America is heard from.

When I stopped by the Gay Caucus at the last Democratic National Convention in Atlanta, I was proud to be wearing a "Silence Equals Death" button. But a button I'd like to have worn would have carried the slogan seen on an AIDS march banner in Chicago.

It said, simply, "Action Equals Life." ▼

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For more information (in Spanish or English), call the San Francisco AIDS Foundation Hotline:

In San Francisco **863-AIDS**

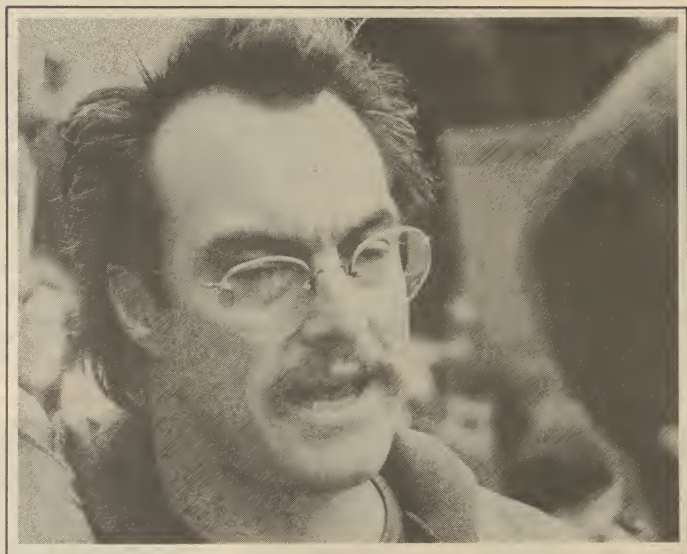
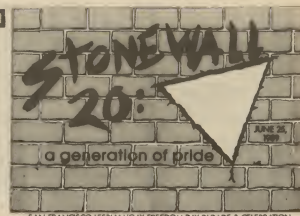
In northern California (800) **FOR-AIDS**

TDD (for hearing impaired only) **864-6606**

For Asian language/community information, call the Asian AIDS Project: **929-1304**

Funding provided by the San Francisco Department of Public Health and foundation, corporate, and individual donations.

Gay Rights Champion To Get Activist Award



Gay activist Hank Wilson.

(Photo: Rink)

by Allen White

Sunday afternoon Hank Wilson will be honored on the stage of the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Celebration with the first Bill Paul gay activist award. It will be an opportunity to honor a person who has, for more than 20 years, been active in the gay-rights movement.

"I think our movement is like a amoeba," Wilson says. "We move in some area, we rest in others. Then we push again. I think a common thing is that whenever we surface we win. We are fighting homophobia, but homophobia is based on many different myths, many different conceptions.

He remembers the days of struggle against Anita Bryant just 10 years ago.

"That was a wonderful opportunity for us. It was very costly in terms of psychological trauma. Youth suicide has never been higher than when Anita Bryant launched her campaign against us. But it gave us the opportunity to get out in the media and to speak for ourselves, something we could not purchase.

"It's the old saying that danger equals opportunity. When the spotlight goes on we have a responsibility to respond. We are increasingly able to capture media, and when we respond, we demystify myths. We are still fighting for visibility. I think that is one of our biggest problems in American culture today.

"There are many myths. If we can take someone who believes 20 homophobic myths and destroy three of them, then we have made progress. The person may be homophobic, but they are less homophobic. I believe that by teaching and building foundations, we can help chip away at the homophobia. It is a lifelong struggle. We must have a sense of pacing and retain our sense of urgency. We need to respond every time we are attacked as a community. When there is a homophobic emergence, there is a response from our community."

Wilson views the community from many levels.

"We don't have two or three leaders anymore. We have dozens of leaders. At any given time they are out there. I think at one point in the AIDS epidemic we used to rely on one or two key people. If we just relied on Supervisor Britt, we would not be as well off as a movement as if we relied on many different people."

Wilson sees changes during the past 20 years.

"We have fewer full-time leaders because we have developed organizations that have staffs. We are having a different kind of phenomenon because we now have organizations like the Community United Against Violence, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the Human Rights Campaign Fund, where there are staffs."

Wilson said that being involved in San Francisco's gay movement has meant being a part of history and that he could see how things have remained the same while there has been change.

"I think there are more people involved today than there has ever been," he says. "There is a new set of tensions. Some of that is when we create tension. When we go into areas like providing services for young people in high schools, that is going to create tension. Some of that tension will be backlash."

"San Francisco is a pioneer city for gays and lesbians," he says. "We are the beacon of hope for the country. We make mistakes, but we are trying and that is exciting. I am a person who loves history, and I love that what we are doing has a historical perspective. We are truly pioneers."

The AIDS crisis has created a new type of focus for Wilson's activism. Several years ago he was involved in the issue of whether people should use poppers.

"The poppers issue was important to me," he says, "because I had a boyfriend at the time who was addicted to poppers—addicted in the sense that he couldn't function sexually with-

out poppers. When AIDS first started, we weren't sure of the cause of AIDS. We also were looking at co-factors. I realized at the time there was danger in it, and I realized the community was unaware of it."

He then acted as a participant in the issue of closing the city's many bathhouses and was one of the people who helped found the Mobilization Against AIDS.

Today he sees the community moving in many areas.

"Within the context of AIDS we are still pushing forward," he says. "We are strong in many areas. As we solve AIDS, we are going to have many people to put into other resources. Hopefully, we will develop new services and advocacy for gay youth. I think that many of us realize that in working together for AIDS there is a sense of community and community building.

"Our community needs to be about setting agendas—funding agendas, legislative agendas, public-policy agendas, administration of things, these are all areas we should be pushing. Pushing for better laws that meet our needs and, of course, defending ourselves.

"There is room for activists, for professionals, for lawmakers, and we all complement each other. When something happens, someone starts to push. We need others to join in."

What we need to develop is follow-through in our community. I don't think of these things as quick fixes.

"We need the street activists, we need the media to editorialize and cover our issues. We need the clubs to do their part, and we need the legislators. We need people like Harry Britt and Tim Wolfred because each of these play a key part to solve a social problem. At any given time, we may have some in movement and not the others. My frustration is that we set the stage, such as we did at Burroughs-Wellcome, for a legislative remedy and we didn't push. I think we need to be multi-pronged."

Wilson enjoys being an activist, and he has many styles.

"I think there are times to be angry and there are other times to put on a suit and be polite. I think there are times when the message has to be anger. You see, I believe the American public agrees with you when you stand up and fight, even if they don't agree with you. If you stand and defend yourself, you are respected. They understand why we rioted in 1979."

He has marched and participated in dozens of protests.

"You want to think that you have been to all of them, but reality is that sometimes you are on the beach at Russian River. It makes you feel like there is a community. It is exciting. Some of the real bonding times in my life have been the protests when we were together."

With the protests have come the victories.

"It feels good to win," he says. "It makes it worth it. There is a price for these efforts. You alienate people, you get tired, you put things on the back burner."

When he receives his award next Sunday, he will be remembering Bill Paul.

"Bill is special for his passion, and he was fearless. He put himself out there. He had a special kind of integrity. He was selfless."

He remembers that Paul "was always thinking of the community in its broadest sense, and that is true for me. I would hope to be a role model after Bill and ask the hard questions."



"I gave my lover everything, including AIDS."

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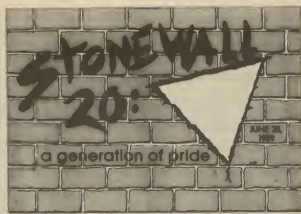
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The Best of Our Pride

Lesbian and Gay Parents Make a New Generation

by Joy Schulenburg

Last summer, Paul and Larry became the parents of two-year-old Jason. The private agency that arranged the adoption is currently working with the two men to find a younger brother or sister for Jason.

Ann, the mother of three children, ages eight through nineteen, is anxious to have another child. Each month for the past half year, her lover Jean has inseminated her with donor sperm from an East Bay sperm bank. So far, Ann has not conceived, but she remains optimistic.

Fred just moved to Sonoma County with his twin sons. He is delighted that the boys seem to love the rural setting, but is concerned about the increasingly homophobic attitudes he sees among their peers.

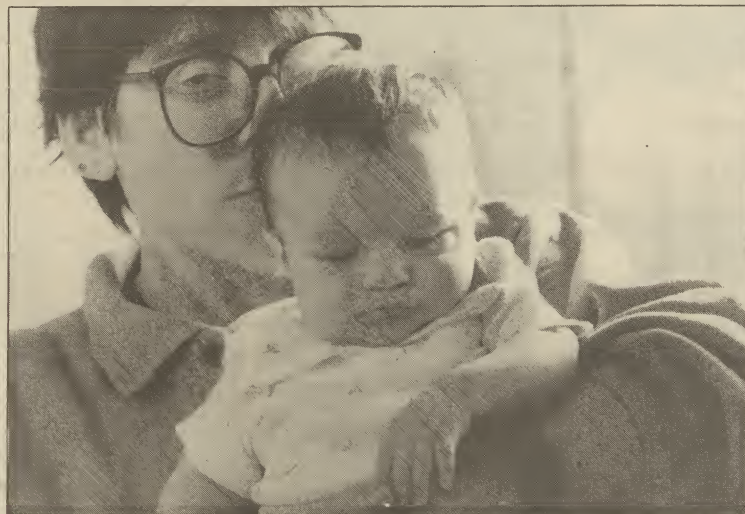
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In the last decade, much has been made about the "baby boom" that is occurring as the children of the post-World War II generation begin to have their own offspring. This is the generation that spawned the yuppies; a generation that has learned to get what it wants through technology or innovation. And among the things they want are babies.

The gays and lesbians of this generation have come of age since Stonewall. They have consistently stood up and claimed their rights—including the rights of reproductive freedom. To some of us, this freedom is a philosophical point, but to many others it is a very real, very practical issue, going far beyond our straight sisters' rights to abortion and control over their own bodies. Reproductive freedom includes the right to have and raise children. And within the gay and lesbian community, those rights are being exercised in increasing numbers. For the first time in history, great numbers of openly gay men and lesbians are choosing to become parents.

There have always been a few lesbian and gay parents, but until recently, they remained an invisible minority within our community. The majority of them became parents in the context of heterosexual marriages, entered into for a variety of reasons: because of social stigma and the pressure to marry and be "straight"; genuine love for the marriage partner; delayed coming out, or, frequently, from a very real desire to have a family. Marriages end, but our children remain our children.

Those who came out have faced an incredible array of challenges and obstacles, both from straight society and from the gay community itself. The legal ramifications and custody battles encountered by lesbian and gay parents would fill volumes. The National Center for Lesbian Rights (formerly known as the Lesbian Rights Project of San Francisco) has handled many of these cases, often breaking new ground and setting important precedents. The center has produced an extensive bibliography, as well as texts for other attorneys helping lesbian and gay



Naomi Shapiro and Eric (3 months).

(Photo: Barbara Maggiani)

custody and parenting cases. Director Roberta Achtenberg, herself a lesbian parent, is widely recognized as one of the nation's leading authorities on the subject.

In the past, even when custody has been effectively established or was not an issue, lesbian and gay parents often had to contend with stigmatization within their own community. Activist Pat Norman says that lesbians who had borne children prior to coming out were perceived by their peers as having "consorted with the enemy" and looked down upon. In 1976, Norman helped to found the Lesbian Mothers Union, one of the first groups to support and promote visibility for lesbians with children.

Today there are dozens of support groups around the nation, both for lesbian mothers and for gay fathers. Many of them continue to provide support and encouragement for parents going through the upheaval of divorce and custody litigation, for the coming-out process or dealing with specific issues of raising teenagers. Still others have begun to develop another focus: parenting by choice.

The Lesbian/Gay Parents Group is one of the most successful of these organizations. Spanning the Bay Area, LGPG has reached hundreds of people with its outreach and friendly atmosphere. They have educational forums and social events and publish a regular newsletter. Originally the Gay Men's Parenting Group, this group was one of the first to become fully co-sexual, addressing the needs of both men and women. They are also open and encouraging to those people who are considering becoming parents, providing information and support for lesbians and gays during the decision-making process. Over the last five years, a number of its members have taken the plunge.

▽ ▽ ▽

"It's not a decision we made lightly," says Paul, watching Jason play with blocks on the floor. "Deciding to become a father was one of the biggest moves of my life. There are still times I wake up at night in a

panic wondering if I did the right thing or if something could still go wrong." He glances over at his son and then shakes his head. "Naw, I know we did the right thing, but sometimes the responsibility of having a kid is just overwhelming."

It is also expensive. Paul and Larry spent over ten thousand dollars between legal and agency fees and the birth mother's medical care. They were fortunate in that they ran into few delays or difficulties and lucky enough to be in an economic bracket that made such a private adoption possible.

"I do feel lucky," Larry acknowledges. "I know other men who'd love to adopt, who'd

try, adoption by unmarried people is impossible and a person who is openly gay or lesbian would find his or her sexual orientation a barrier to passing the necessary screening. Living in the Bay Area, Paul and Larry did not encounter these obstacles, though they were still faced with the fact that only one of them was allowed to formally adopt Jason. They worry that, should something happen to Paul, Larry would have no legal claim to custody. There are few precedents for such cases and no clear-cut guarantees of the outcome.

Lesbians, conceiving through alternative insemination and co-parenting with a lover, often en-

Conception through insemination offers a range of both options and potential problems, depending upon the circumstances chosen by the would-be mother. Sperm from unknown donors, obtained through sperm banks, offers the protection of anonymity, while using sperm obtained from a friend or acquaintance allows for more control over screening. With known donors, however, the potential exists for involvement on the part of the donor after conception has occurred. For some women, a degree of involvement is welcome, but for many others it

Judge Ma



Mary Morgan, Benji and Roberta Achtenberg



Roberta holds Benji during a campaign rally.

(Photo: Barbara Maggiani)

be great fathers, but they're not in a position to afford all the costs, even if everything else went okay."

By "everything else" he means that a child is available, that the prospective parent was able to pass agency and social service screening for fitness, and that there were no legal challenges to the adoption. When prospective parents are gay, any one of these steps may hit serious snags. In some areas of the coun-

try, adoption by unmarried people is impossible and a person who is openly gay or lesbian would find his or her sexual orientation a barrier to passing the necessary screening. Living in the Bay Area, Paul and Larry did not encounter these obstacles, though they were still faced with the fact that only one of them was allowed to formally adopt Jason. They worry that, should something happen to Paul, Larry would have no legal claim to custody. There are few precedents for such cases and no clear-cut guarantees of the outcome.

is an unwanted intrusion. A recent case in which a known donor sued a lesbian mother for joint custody of her son has alerted many lesbians to the perils of alternative insemination. It is strongly advised that binding legal contracts detailing the nature of all agreements be drawn up prior to embarking on insemination with sperm from a known donor.

Other issues arise when lovers choose to parent a child together.



ge Mary Morgan and Benjy.

(Photo: Barbara Maggiani)



Achtenberg.

(Photo: Barbara Maggiani)

Only the biological mother has any claim to the child; her lover has no legal status. Should the relationship break up, the non-biological parent could find herself out in the cold, despite all the

time, love and energy she has invested in the child. Having provided for such a possibility in advance through a signed contract may make it easier to negotiate if a breakup occurs. California courts are also coming to acknowledge that nurturing can be as important as genetics. In a landmark 1987 case, an Alameda County judge granted visitation to a lesbian mother's lover and ordered the lover (who had helped raise the child from birth) to make child-support payments.

Another option in by-choice parenting occurs when gay men and lesbians choose to co-parent together. Such arrangements happen more often out of existing friendships than by premeditated design. Unlike same-sex lovers, who often choose to parent as an extension of their union, lesbian and gay co-parents' focus may be primarily on the child. Whether conception is achieved through insemination or intercourse, romance is not a component so much as friendly affection. Often the two (or more) co-parents choose not to live together, but establish a kind of joint custody arrangement, each assuming an equitable share of responsibility for the child's upbringing.

Shared values and common goals are important here, and the most successful co-parenting situations balance love and compromise.

As with almost every facet of life in the gay community today, AIDS has cast its spectre over the parenting issue. Gay men who might otherwise have made ideal parents are holding back, waiting to see what lies ahead in their future. Lesbians who, at the outset of the baby boom, once sought gay male sperm donors are turning with more frequency to sperm banks, whose anonymous donors are drawn largely from the straight population. Men and women who might have co-parented together are seeking

other options where the risk of HIV transmission is not a concern. And gay fathers are dying.

and AIDS—our community continues to extend its love and its nurturing to another generation

The lesbian/gay parents group is one of the most successful organizations.

There are few children being raised in our community today who have not had to contend with the tragedy of losing someone close to their family.

Yet, despite the obstacles faced by lesbian and gay parents—custody disputes, legal entanglements, social prejudice

of human beings. As parents and friends of parents, we offer this new generation the best of our strength and pride. Some of our children will be straight, a few will themselves be lesbian and gay, but all of them will inherit the legacy of freedom of choice for which we continue to fight. ▼



Columnist Joy Schulenberg and her daughter.

(Photo: Barbara Maggiani)

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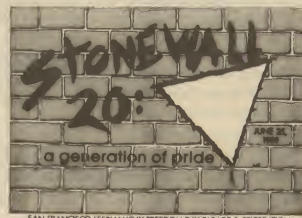
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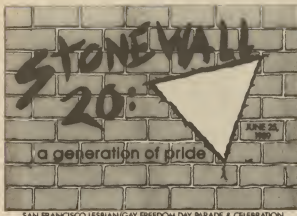
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No Summary Judgments

Lesbian and Gay Rights in the Courts

by Matt Coles
Staff Lawyer, ACLU of Northern California

The history of lesbian and gay rights in the courts allows no neat summaries about steady progress (or the lack of it).

Courts are far less hostile to gay people and gay cases now than they were 20 years ago. On the other hand, some of the best gay rights cases were decided long before the Stonewall Riots of 1969. The California Supreme Court said in 1951 that the Board of Equalization could not shut down the Black Cat Bar because it was a "hangout" for gay people. In reaching its decision, the court said that gay people had the same right as anyone else to patronize a business, a sentiment still startling to many. Thirty-five years later, the U.S. Supreme Court said it was permissible for a state to criminalize sex between two consenting adults if both were of the same gender. The court justified its decision in part by pointing out that American society disapproves of gay people.

In the 1960s, most gay people came to court defending themselves against police raids on gay bars or the self-righteous fury of vice officers who (usually after considerable effort) had succeeded in getting lesbians and gay men to make passes at them. In the 1980s, gay people are typically in court because they have chosen the legal system to fight job discrimination and attacks on their families. Still, the lines here are not all that clear-cut. The Illinois ACLU has sued the Chicago police over a raid on a gay bar last year in which 50 customers were detained for over three hours, questioned, searched and verbally abused.

But if the changes haven't been neat and clear-cut, there are some unmistakable trends.

First, the demands we make of courts have grown. Once, the most we hoped was that the courts might curb the worst excesses of the police. Then, we tried to get the courts to put the bedroom off limits, to tell not just the police, but school commissions, professional licensing boards and others, that what we did in the privacy of our own homes was nobody's business but our own. Now, we ask the courts to tell government and private business that gay people are equal citizens, that we can't be treated differently in anything, from the military to apartment leases, and that our relationships should be given the same dignity and respect as those of others.

Our expectations are not always met. Courts have been spotty about curbing vice squads, and in most parts of the country, politics has had at least as much (often a good deal more) to do with changing police practices.

The debate about whether we should frame our struggle through the courts as a matter of privacy or a matter of inequality is as old as the struggle itself. The philosophical merits of that debate don't matter much anymore, because after some early victories with the privacy approach in lower courts, the U.S. Supreme Court took most of the privacy arguments away from us in the Georgia sodomy case.

Our equality arguments face a tough road as well. The California Supreme Court said in 1969 (in the case of a teacher) and again in 1979 (in a case against the phone company) that gay people must be treated equally. But for every case embracing that principle, there are several around that reject it. And not a few gay lawyers breathed a sigh of relief a few months ago when the federal circuit court in San Francisco said that the army had to take Sgt. Perry Watkins back, not because the military's policy violated equal protection of the law, but because the army had misled him. That ruling made it less likely that the current U.S. Supreme Court would take the case and tell us what it thinks about equal treatment of lesbians and gay men.

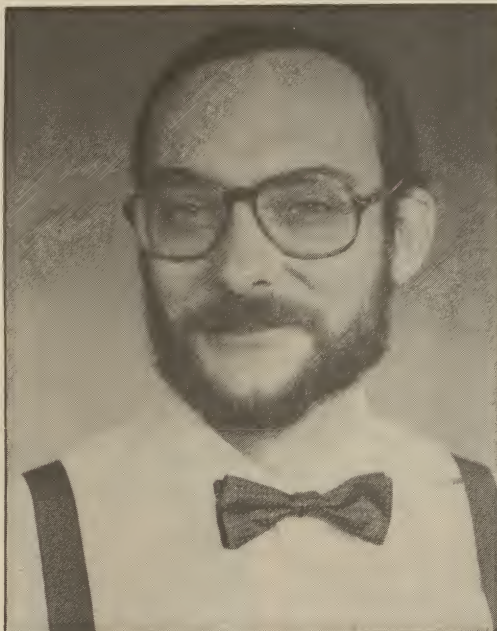
We ask more of the courts now than we did 20 years ago, not because we have been so successful in court, but because our movement has changed and the things we argue in court reflect that. Being free of police persecution is not enough. Being left alone is not enough. We want to participate fully in this society, with our lovers and our children beside us, not hidden away.

This recognition—that although our demands have grown, we haven't always done that well in court—is responsible for a second major trend: a decline in what we expect courts to do for our movement.

There was a time when gay people looked to the courts to change society. Many of us hoped that, one day, we would have our own *Brown v. Board of Education*, in which the U.S. Supreme Court would declare that gay people are equal under the law, and would demand that society end the mistreatment of lesbians and gay men "with all deliberate speed." The limited nature of a court's power to change society became clearer as we saw that *Brown's* promise of a speedy end to racial discrimination was largely empty. Therefore, many of us began to think we would have to settle for strong leadership from the courts. Even that possibility grew dimmer as courts began to pull back from the cutting edge in civil rights generally, and the result in our own cases proved to be mixed.

But the realization that courts were not going to change society, and might not even act as society's conscience on gay rights, did not mean abandonment of the legal system. It meant instead that we had to rethink the way we used the courts.

In the early 1980s, three groups of civil rights lawyers in California brought lawsuits over the nonrecognition of gay relationships. None of those lawsuits succeeded in the traditional sense; all three plaintiffs lost. But those three lawsuits provided an important catalyst for the movement. They helped to get gay people thinking about why it is important that our relationships be visible, and why we need to insist that they be recognized. For the first time, many nongay people



Matt Coles.

discovered that we do have relationships, and our own families, and that they are as important to us as traditional families are to others.

Even cases that do succeed legally are often more important for what the facts of the case tell society than they are for what the decision does. Few things illustrated the stupidity of society's attitudes towards lesbians and gay men better than the immigration service's decision that

Carl Hill couldn't attend the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Celebration in San Francisco because all gays have "psychopathic personalities." It provoked howls of outrage from establishment newspapers, religious leaders, and even a few politicians. That reaction was far more important than the eventual decision about who makes medical suitability decisions for immigration. The irony of the Rhode Island Bicentennial Committee's attempt to

bar gay groups from the celebration because they were protesting oppressive laws said more to most people than the eventual decision about who may speak in a "limited public forum."

This is not to say that good decisions are not important. To a parent facing permanent separation from her or his children, little in the world could be more important. This is not to say that good decisions are important only to those directly involved. The news that a court has said that it is in a child's best interest to stay with a gay parent, even though she has a lover living with her, or he has AIDS, may be the most profoundly important message a court could ever send.

The point is that the most important role for courts in the gay rights movement stems from their capacity to make abstract principles real, to tell the story of the movement in human terms to the rest of society. The claim of lesbians and gay men to justice is much easier to brush aside when it is not accompanied by the tragedies caused by the mistreatment of gay people in the real world. Courts are one way—not the only way, but a good way—to make that claim tangible.

Where the movement goes next in the courts will depend on many things. It will, of course, depend in part on where lawyers think we can be successful. But it will depend much more on where the movement goes and how society reacts to the movement. And that is as it should be. ▼

2009

(Continued from page 47)

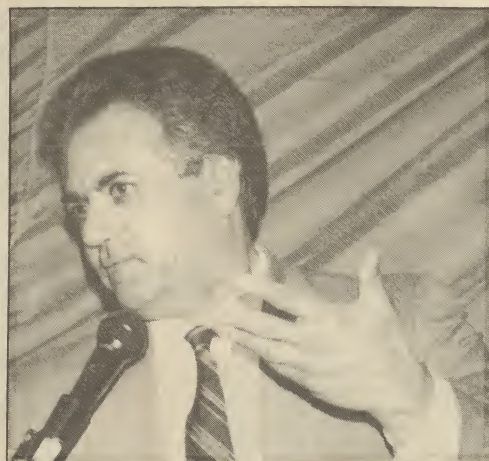
with the networks giving gay causes coverage and portraying them sympathetically in sitcoms and dramas.

The real media explosion has occurred in books, with gay authors by the dozens represented in mainstream literature. Twenty years ago, with the exception of the occasional book by Vidal or Baldwin or Burroughs or Rechy, gay sensibilities were treated crudely in pornography, and that was about it. Books today deal with the gay mystique with compassion and depth, and gay authors have even invaded the genre fields of mystery and science fiction.

By 2009, more than ever, the media will be the cutting edge for gay acceptance and subsequent improvement in gay rights.

▽ ▽ ▽

Will there ever be complete acceptance of gays in everyday life by the majority of straights out there? It's a difficult subject on which to make predictions. There'll always be homophobia, just as there'll always be people who hate blacks or Jews or Catholics or Mexicans. The religious right has shot itself in the foot, but the radical and homophobic right is still strong and active, anxious to tar its enemies as "faggots" and "commies."



Congressman Barney Frank.

(Photo: Rink)

Will it be any different in 2009? Maybe. They'll have to get to know us, which means we'll have to mix more with them—and they with us. (Ask a straight to dinner...) The concerns of the general community will have to become our concerns as well, something that's difficult today with the overwhelming concern about AIDS.

The millennium will arrive when everyone realizes that he or she is a sexual minority of one, when people are more concerned with happiness than sexuality, when parents are just as worried

about the boys their son is dating as what boys their daughter is, and for the same reasons.

By 2009, gays will be commonplace in politics, the plague will be over, and the literature will be rich with books detailing the heroism of the afflicted and the courage of a community that contributed so much in taking care of its own—a courage unparalleled in peacetime.

And some writer for the *Bay Area Reporter* will be looking back at 40 years of gay liberation and thinking what a long, strange trip it's been. ▼

One of the few people who won't be at our AIDS fundraiser party.

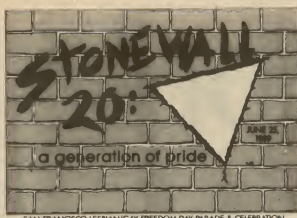


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44 Years of Gay Love

Bay Area Lovers Have Made Relationship Work

by Marv. Shaw

OK, you wet-behind-the-ears pups, listen up to two guys who were mated 44 years ago and have made it work! Comfortably retired in their rambling Peninsula home, Stan Dorfer and Herb Booth reminisced recently about themselves, their shared lives, and the differences between then and now.

Both Bay Area natives, most of their early lives were spent in San Francisco. Stan, 68, was raised in the Excelsior district and graduated from Balboa High. Going right into the work world, he was first employed in meat packing, then worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad. Early in 1942 he enlisted in the Army as World War II revved up. After training at what he called two of the Army's "country clubs," the Presidio and Fort Sam Houston in Texas, he was assigned as a stenographer to a general. He saw action in the Rheinland-Ruhr campaign—but with some great "times-out" in a grand hotel in Paris, courtesy of his boss.

Herb also had his upbringing in San Francisco, then joined the National Guard at 16. Even before the United States was catapulted into the war, he was on active duty, then went overseas to North Africa and Italy with the 40th Division. Returned to the States in late '44, he got out of the Army and into a deputy sheriff's job at the San Francisco jail. Then he went into the Merchant Marine, a job he worked at intermittently into the '50s.

Just after the war, Herb went with a friend named Murray McKinnon to the ballet. Murray introduced him to his friend Stan, who was ushering at the Opera House, a most convenient way to see all the opera, dance and concerts he loved. Their love affair started there, though it was Herb's first and last ballet!

As they looked back at that, they compared their mutual enthusiasms and individual preferences. Stan is very fond of travel. Herb has done some, mainly in his Merchant Marine days, but does almost none now because he distrusts planes. In earlier years they bounced around the American West in a jeep. They recalled taking only \$150 for a trip to the Grand Canyon, and on another occasion \$100 for a junket to Yellowstone Park. That was possible in the early '50s.

Stan loves opera and concerts, and they both like theater. Herb loves dining out. Stan is great for movies. Antique furniture, especially discovered at auctions, fascinates Herb. Stan is indifferent to it. Whatever the furnishing, both are deeply devoted to their home, with its swimming pool and hot tub. Also claiming great devotion is their family menagerie: nine cats, two dogs, a duck, a rabbit, 35 pigeons, and three tanks of fish!

Their domestic arrangement originated just after the war when Stan was going to San Francisco State working toward his degree in speech and drama and teaching credential. They got a small grocery store at the corner of San Jose Avenue and Broad



The above photo has Stan Dorfer on the left with Herb Booth at the Grand Canyon in the early '50s. The photo on the bottom shows Herb on the left with Stan next to him during a recent visit to Monterey.

Street, rent \$27 a month, with another \$25 for the apartment above it. They alternated shifts to accommodate Stan's class schedule.

Herb was still going to sea in this period too, but he began changing his attitude toward that life because of the Benevolence disaster.

The hospital ship Benevolence, recently out of mothballs and refitted for a role in the Korean War, steamed out of San Francisco Bay on a trial run in a thick fog. On its way back into the harbor, it was rammed by the lumber ship Mary Luckenback, which was sailing in the wrong lane. The Benevolence began to list and sink. The captain on the bridge had a heart attack and died. His replacement was immobilized with fear. With the port side under water, the ship hadn't a chance. In the absence of other responsible authority, Herb was the one who called, "Abandon ship!"

Stan, who heard about the mishap on the radio, was terribly distressed, thinking he had lost his lover for sure. But later they were reunited at the Marine's Hospital. A subsequent fire in mid-Pacific on another mismanaged ship convinced Herb that seagoing was too dangerous for his health.

After two years in the San Joaquin Valley, where Stan taught at Reedley College and Herb ran Herb's Hamburger Heaven, the couple moved to the Peninsula, where Herb taught at Menlo-Atherton High and Herb started a janitorial service, which he continued for 28 years.

Deciding in the late '50s that business was more attractive, Stan left teaching, and the two got a flower and gift shop. Later, they got a second. The businesses occupied their attention until a few years ago, when they sold out and retired.

When they were asked what has kept them together for 44

years, their answers were different but closely related.

"Our love for each other," they both say. "We both like to nest and entertain," Herb said.

Stan emphasizes Herb's unflagging devotion: "When I needed a friend, Herb was always there."

They are both involved in volunteer work. Herb labors with Imperial AIDS in San Jose, taking care of AIDS patients' needs.

"I'm working harder there than I did at my regular work," he declared.

Stan is a telephone respondent at the National VD Hotline in Palo Alto, where he fields questions from across the country.

For six months in '87 and '88 Herb and Stan contributed to the contemporary gay community with *On the Scene*, a newspaper that was read from Sacramento to Los Angeles. Their editor's death and mounting expenses forced them to give up the project.

Their recollections of older days on the gay scene concentrate on the fun in the various gay bars: Dolan's, with its crystal chandelier chic; the Black Cat and its gay Bohemian atmosphere; the 356 Taylor, where Lloyd Fox played all the show tunes on the piano and the organ; and of course Finnochio's, the true home of gay camp.

"They were the places where we could use our own language and indulge in our own mystique," they agree.

Hijinks of the past still entertains them. Herb recalls when he and a friend dressed in sailor suits, went to the bluffs near Land's End and taunted the queens at Boreas Beach below. In another episode, when they were camping at The Pinnacles, they attracted a husband and father away from his family for a cozy evening.

"Today, you can say your own piece," Herb says. "We don't have to take a back seat to anyone," Stan adds.

For the foreseeable future, they expect to continue their comfortable lifestyle, though Herb's heart trouble must be closely watched. They see gay people becoming more and more open, but they also point out that gays in small towns in Middle America can't.

Carefully choosing their individual freedoms, they still love being together, and feel at this time in their lives that they are growing even closer. ▼

Alioto

(Continued from page 49)

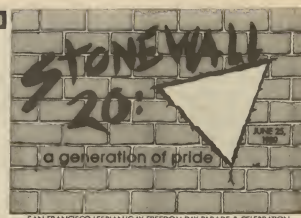
the benefits side of the law. The Health Services Board, an independent agency, will decide how the benefits system should work.

Eventually, I would like to see the private sector take steps to adopt its own domestic partnership regulations. The Chamber of Commerce has promised to take up the issue. At City Hall, we will need to keep up the pressure to make sure the chamber lives up to its commitments.

The last 20 years have been filled with dramatic changes for the lesbian and gay community, some of them wonderful, others devastating. Here in San Francisco, many of us in the straight community can hold our heads up high knowing that we have worked hand-in-hand with the lesbian and gay community to create the most tolerant, non-discriminatory environment in the country. In addition, we have developed programs for dealing with the AIDS crisis that serve as models for the rest of the country.

In the years ahead, I will be there in City Hall fighting to see that we stay on the forefront of what we hope will be a national movement toward the recognition of civil rights for lesbians and gay men. I salute the first 20 years of the lesbian and gay freedom movement, and I urge you to keep marching ahead into the future. ▼

Still Happy After All These Years!



Madeleine Tress and Jan Sibley.

(Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

by Mary Richards

Jan Sibley and Madeleine Tress have faced the world together for the last 26 years. Both articulate activists, they have witnessed changes in society, while maintaining a love that has spanned two decades. Like one of those wonderful Hollywood musicals of the '40s, all the clichés apply: side by side, still young at heart, they continue to travel the globe, and call San Francisco home.

They have both worked through difficult times to make their lives successful. Madeleine remembers the witch hunts of the McCarthy era, and knows that because she was a "suspected Communist and a lesbian" the FBI has a 10-inch-thick file on her activities. She wanted to go into international politics, but it was impossible for her to get a security clearance. Now an attorney, she maintains to this day that the government was tipped off to her by "one of the leading dykes in Washington, D.C."

Jan spent her first 13 years in Alaska, where she was born. She moved to Los Angeles, grew up and married an eminent film writer and professor, but their relationship didn't last. Although she started out in medical school, Jan eventually decided to become a teacher. Involvement with the civil rights movement of the '60s led her to take her profession to the ghetto schools of San Francisco.

Madeleine maintains that a mutual interest in their careers is one of the main things that has kept their relationship going. Jan was there to nurture Madeleine through night school for a law degree, and whenever she could, Madeleine shared in Jan's commitment to her less privileged young students.

Jan recalls that a teacher from another school district used to steal supplies so she could maintain her classes.

"I didn't have a set of readers, I didn't have a set of math books, I didn't have enough paper, pencils or crayons," she says. "I would go down on my 35-minute lunch hour to the main library.

Because I was a teacher, I could take out 40 books. I would take this sort of big kid with me, and we would do this once a week, so I would have enough books in my classroom. It was pretty bad."

The two women who came from such disparate backgrounds met in a gay bar in Sausalito in 1962. Jan was brought to the bar by friends who were helping her to recover from the loss of her home, which had just succumbed to a Bay Area earthquake.

"I was feeling lonely and grumpy and broke," she claims.

"I was not a lipstick lesbian at the time," Madeleine recalls. "I was wearing my schlepiest clothing—an old blue sweater that I had for 30 years, my brother's Marine pants, and house slippers!"

"The only times corporations cared what happened in the ghettos was when the city started burning."

Friends warned Jan never to see Madeleine again, because she was "very promiscuous, political and had an opinion on everything."

Love may be blind, but what about those other senses?

"Madeleine had this great flat on Diamond Street," Jan says, "and in her huge kitchen she had two big Magic Chef ranges. I thought, 'Wow! This lady cooks!' What I didn't know was that one of those was disconnected (she was keeping it for a friend), and on the other, from her Jewish heritage she would cook a big pot of chicken and eat soup all week—for breakfast, lunch and dinner."

The relationship that began because of chicken, almost broke apart because of cats—"Wholly Cats," that is, which was the name of the shop they opened on Polk and California.

"It was a hot little shop," Jan insists, and starts to laugh. "It was only open four days a week, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m."

"Almost by appointment only, but not quite," Madeleine adds. "The saviour of the shop was Bob Foster, who had just retired and was a window decorator from the Emporium. He sprinkled fairy dust around and made it look like the most fancy place in the world. Bob was wonderful—all the little old ladies loved this handsome man!"

The shop was located just below Different Strokes, which in the early '80s was an integrated bar.

"We know a number of gay black men and mixed couples," Madeleine says. "I listened to some of those men tell me stories

of where they were really mistreated, even in same-sex bars because they were black, and I think if this community doesn't get its act together between colors, that's crazy!"

"That was one of the things that bothered us during the sixties," Jan said. "I feel that being a lesbian is a minority. That being Jewish is a minority, and I believe that all minorities should bond together and work together. It disturbs me when I find homosexual people discriminating against black people."

Although neither woman belongs to any political club in the city, they are involved in various organizations. Madeleine belongs to Bay Area Career Women and Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Rights, and Jan has volunteered for both Open Hand and Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS).

What do they think of young lesbians in the city? Jan immediately says, with a laugh, "I think they're real cute! Everything is so much easier now for young lesbians. It was really hard for us, because of political oppression and all kinds of oppression, but it isn't a major challenge now to be a lesbian. I hope they use their energy to do bigger and better things."

Madeleine adds, "Jan is right, you have more friends now, and use it well, but I'd say be careful when you come out—the world is not filled with liberals, and it wasn't here in 1959. It was extremely conservative, everybody was protecting themselves. There are still dangers in standing up and coming out. I really think people who put down people who don't come out are wrong."

Madeleine recalls her days in New York, where the Stonewall riots occurred in summer 1969.

"I had a thought," she says, "that they were taking a cue from the civil rights movement. The only time the civil rights movement 'moved' was when there were riots. The only time corporations cared what happened to people in the ghettos was when the city started burning."

"I think Stonewall gives credence to the people who have been fighting for years without the recognition. I guess I feel that Stonewall happened because it was right to happen. It brought another level of consciousness, it brought another level of strength, but there have been people in the community who have fought for each little bit of rights." ▼

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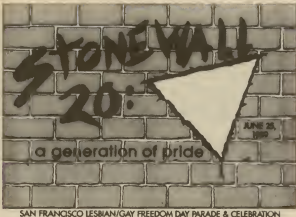
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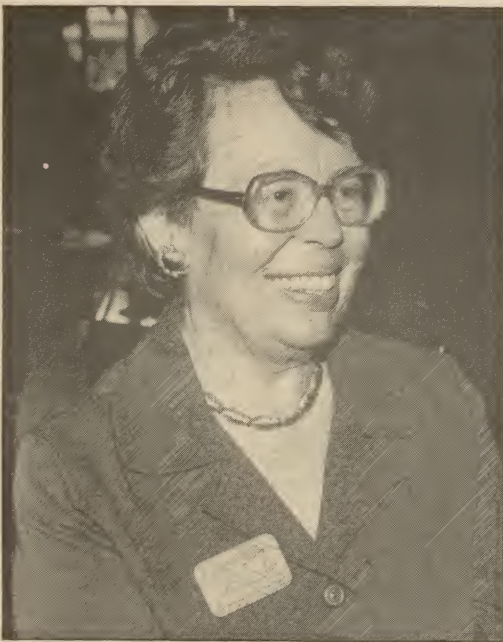
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2 Parade Grand Marshals Were Lesbian Trailblazers



Phyllis Lyon, who will be one of the grand marshals at this year's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade.

(Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

by Mary Richards

On June 25 Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon will be grand marshals of one of the largest Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parades in San Francisco history. They are honored by the community for more than 30 years of service to the gay movement, and for their significant contributions to women's rights.

The two women, who have been lovers for 36 years, founded the first lesbian organization in the nation, the Daughters of Bilitis, and authored a classic of modern literature, *Lesbian/Woman*.

Their years of effort were well spent. San Francisco has just passed one of the first domestic partnership laws in the country, legitimizing relationships for unwed people who live together.

The clinic, which bears their names, continues to offer unexcelled health protection for women, regardless of their status.

In 1953, when Del and Phyllis moved to San Francisco, their first apartment was in the Castro area, a section of the city where Irish working-class families made their homes. There were no gay restaurants or bars in this part of town, because there was no gay community.

They did finally manage to make contact with a few other lesbian women, who had decided to form a social club. Recalling this time, Phyllis says, "We were very closeted. We were very scared at this point. We were going to be a secret, lesbian society and we weren't going to let anybody know we existed."

The social club was called Daughters of Bilitis. The name is

derived from a long, narrative poem about lesbianism attributed to a Frenchman. Never having heard of the poem, Phyllis and Del sought information in the San Francisco Public Library.

Phyllis says, "They didn't have anything on anything. We didn't know enough to look under 'sexual deviate.'"

They knew enough, eventually, to realize they wanted more than a social club. By 1956 the DOB began publishing a newsletter called *The Ladder*, and started to have public discussion meetings.

"It is not true," Phyllis states, "that the DOB got started as the women's auxiliary to the existing male movement, because we didn't know that the Mattachine Society existed and we didn't know that One, Inc. existed until we had started. Then we discovered Mattachine here in the city, and One in Los Angeles."

More women and men began to attend the discussion meetings.

"We had different professional speakers to validate us," Del recalls, "because at that time, when you were considered to be illegal, immoral and sick, that was pretty heavy to deal with."

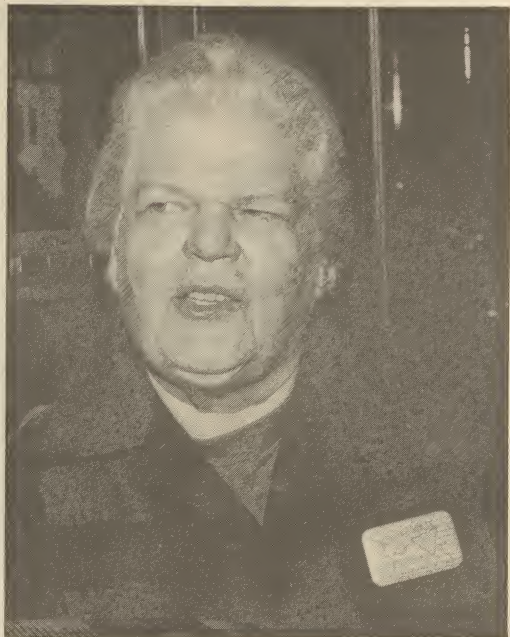
"We were only beginning to find each other, and we had to deal with these fears. We had attorneys who explained what our rights were."

Police raids on bars were commonplace during those years in San Francisco. When gays and lesbians were rounded up and brought to court, the easiest way out was to plead guilty, pay a fine, and hope your name didn't end up in the newspaper.

Working with attorneys, the DOB convinced people to fight for their rights.

"They began to learn," Del says, "how not to do the guilty trip, instead of just going along with the system."

Two hundred people attended the first national lesbian conference held by DOB in 1960 in what is now the San Franciscan Hotel on Market Street. For the first time at a public gathering of gays and lesbians in this city, a



Del Martin, one of the grand marshals of the June 25 Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade.

(Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

clergyman from the Council of Churches was present.

On Jan. 1, 1965, the first drag ball was held in San Francisco.

"As far as we're concerned," Del states, "we consider that ball to be our Stonewall, because 500 lesbians and gay men crossed a picket line of cops to go in, and that was while the entrance was floodlighted and photos were being taken of everybody who went in and out."

Repercussions followed the event, and wire services picked up the story. Resultant publicity led to the appointment of a liaison between the police department and the gay and lesbian community.

The movement was growing and getting stronger, and Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon continued to fight for the rights of their community. In 1972 they co-authored a book entitled *Les-*

bian/Woman, which is considered a modern classic of its kind. It is dedicated "To The Daughters of Bilitis—and to all the other daughters throughout the world who are struggling with their identity as Lesbian/Woman."

The book is written with humor and insight, and has changed the lives of lesbian women who had nowhere to turn for validation of their lifestyle. It covers all phases of lesbian life, and stands as a treatise against society's stereotypes.

Because of their commitment to human rights, and women in particular, the Lyon/Martin Women's Health Services Clinic was named after Phyllis and Del. This honor is only one of many that has been given to these women who have been in the forefront of the struggle for dignity, respect and rights of lesbians throughout the world. ▼

Gilbert Baker: Gay America's Flag Maker

by Mary Richards

Throughout the world, flags are recognized as symbols. Their vivid colors and stately designs recall an ancient power: to distinguish friend from foe; as a rallying point in time of battle; to demark unity against oppression; and to carry forward the promise of hope and continuance.

The gay and lesbian community stands with a flag of rainbow colors, evocative of the beauty of a natural phenomena in the heavens—an arc of good fortune created by raindrops and sunlight.

When Gilbert Baker designed and produced the first gay flag in San Francisco in 1978, he had no way of knowing that his concept would one day become the primary symbol for an entire political movement. In 1989, as in years past, the rainbow flag will fly from City Hall, the seat of power in San Francisco. Officially sanctioned to represent the gay and lesbian community, the rainbow flag is now recognized by the International Congress of Flag Makers.

(Continued on next page)



Holding up one of the new gay pride flags are, left to right, Gilbert Baker, Flo Tumolo, Phyllis Lyon, Del Martin, and Steven Lindsay.

(Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

San Francisco's First Empress Returns as Parade Grand Marshal

by Allen White

Jose Sarria, a grand marshal of the 1989 Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade, is a San Francisco institution. He was the first openly gay person to run for public office in the city, and he was the first empress in what has become known as the "court system."

Jose is, first and foremost, an entertainer. He began his career at the long ago closed Beige Room. A few years later he moved to the Black Cat. The bar, located on Montgomery Street, was known as a Bohemian bar. During the '50s, Jose created a unique drag act that made him an immediate hit. With his pianist, Hazel, he created a Sunday afternoon presentation that was a parody on opera. The Sunday afternoon operas would outlast the Black Cat and be performed through most of Jose's career in San Francisco.

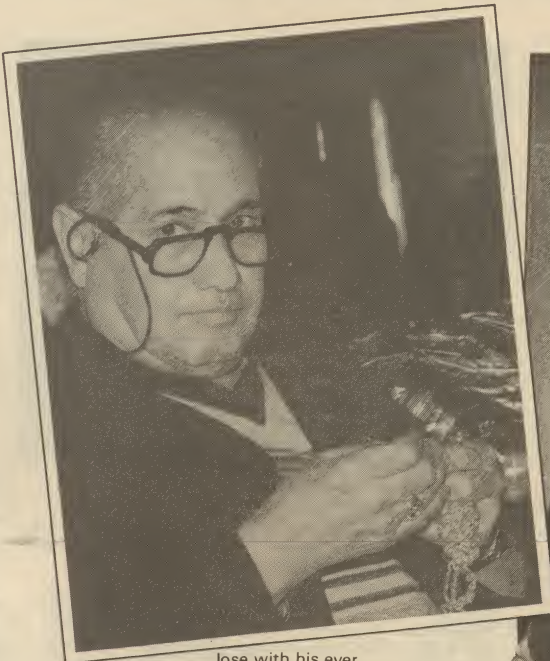
At the Black Cat, Sarria would use his platform to tell his gay patrons to stand up for their rights. Many of the city's parks, in those days, were favorite cruising spots. Jose would warn customers of areas where police had stepped up harassment.

During those days the Black Cat was located across the street from the Hall of Justice. Today, the Financial District Holiday Inn has replaced the hall. It became a common occurrence for Jose to take his customers into the street and have them direct their voices to the city prison and sing, "God Bless the Nelly Queens."

In 1961, exasperated by the waves of police oppression, Sarria decided to run for San Francisco supervisor. He did practically no campaigning in any location other than the Black Cat. When the ballots were being counted, he threw a victory party.

No one expected him to win and he didn't. What he did do was amass more than 5,000 votes, which was considered remarkable because he spent less than \$500 on his campaign.

Following the political experiment, Jose was arrested on a harassment charge. The judge, in



Jose with his ever present knitting needles. (Photo: Mick Hicks)

dismissing the charge, said, "I will not allow my court to become an instrument of punishment of unsuccessful candidates."

The Black Cat became a test case for the Alcoholic Beverage Control board. The issue was whether a bar could be closed for catering to homosexuals. Though the case established several legal landmarks, the bar was forced to close because of staggering legal costs.

On Oct. 31, 1965, Jose was crowned royal empress de San Francisco and with that began a tradition of empresses and emperors in San Francisco. Somewhere in the process it became apparent that the last emperor had been Joshua Norton, a colorful man who moved through the streets of San Francisco during the gold rush days.

If Jose was the empress, he reasoned, then he might as well be the Widow Norton. Never one

for subtlety, this Widow Norton took to holding events at the graveside of Joshua Norton in a cemetery in Colma.

The empresses and emperors that have been elected to follow in these unique offices have created a foundation for San Francisco's gay community. Each year they raise thousands of dollars for gay charities. A decade ago when the Briggs anti-gay initiative was being fought, these people raised tens of thousands of dollars to successfully fight the proposed law.

During the 50-year celebration of the Bay Bridge, several people chose to rename the bridge in honor of Joshua Norton. To raise funds for bridge lighting efforts, Jose went to the bridge decked out in his best Widow Norton finery and claimed it "for my dear departed husband, Joshua."

A few years ago he decided to make his farewell from San Francisco. With much hoopla, it was



H.I.M. Jose Sarria, the first empress, as the Widow Norton. (Photo: S. Savage)

announced that he would depart from in front of City Hall in a large heated balloon. On the day of the event, it was announced the plans were cancelled because of high winds. In fact, the real reason is that Sarria is afraid of heights.

Sarria, now living in Phoenix, frequently comes to San Francisco to participate in community functions. Last year the "In

Memory of Friends" show featured Jose and revolved around the entertainer and the Black Cat.

Sarria is in San Francisco this week to participate in many events on behalf of the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade. Sunday morning he will join Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin to lead the 1989 parade down Market Street. ▼

(Continued from previous page)

"A flag is more than words," Baker claims. "It conveys emotion, it conveys history, it conveys something spiritual—and I think that's happened with the gay flag. It's not like a product. You can't just design a log and put it on the gay movement."

One of the early symbols used, which is still seen today in gay parades and marches, is a black flag with a pink triangle. Gilbert feels that particular graphic conveys a disturbing message.

"The pink triangle is a symbol of gay oppression," he states. "It comes from Nazi Germany. People think the pink triangle was gay liberation, but it isn't. I adore pink, but I don't particularly like the symbol that our oppressors put on us. It's different when we put a label on ourselves."

For Baker, the idea of the rainbow "just seemed logical. We put a rainbow around us because we

believe our sexuality is beautiful, and we celebrate our sexuality as a beautiful part of nature."

Although it seems to be the project dearest to his heart, the creation of the gay flag is only one result of Baker's talent. He calls himself a production designer, admits to being fascinated by spectacle, and intrigued, he says, by the giant "graphics of revolution" seen in China and the Philippines.

Baker has dressed San Francisco's landmark buildings for the wealthy and the powerful. City leaders have welcomed heads of state from throughout the world amid the pomp and pageantry he has created.

Chinese Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang, Prince Albert of Monaco, President Francois Mitterrand of France, and King Juan Carlos of Spain share something in common—their visits to this city were all enlivened by

Gilbert Baker's imagination.

For the 1984 Democratic Convention Baker turned Moscone Center into a fantasy of stars and stripes. His canopy of consulate flags still flies above the atrium of Citicorp's restoration at One Sansome St. In 1988 he used 10,000 yards of fabric to dress lamp posts in enormous evening gowns for the Black and White Ball.

Decorating on a large scale is hard work. For months he and his two assistants, Jerry Schreyer and White Feather LaLash, have been laboring to complete the restoration of hundreds of rainbow banners that have lined Market Street for the past 10 years.

"I'm obsessed when I'm doing it," Baker says. "I think nothing of working around the clock." Some weeks, he says, "I'll probably work 80 hours—doing double shifts every day."

In addition to new flags that fly from lamp posts along the parade route, the designer is doing a limited edition of personally made rainbow flags to be made available at one of the booths in Civic Center the day of the parade. Although he has the facilities to be able to produce flags on a larger scale, Gilbert appreciates individual effort.

"When I go to the gay parade and see somebody else's homemade rainbow flag, that to me is more beautiful and more moving—and I'm certain more noticeable," he says. "It has an impact. There's something about the labor that just comes through in the artwork."

People persist in comparing Baker to Betsy Ross, but he finds the analogy distasteful.

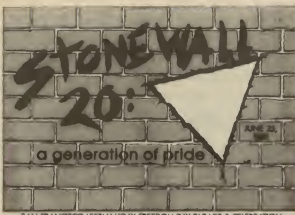
He maintains that "people make flags because they love them. A flag is something that's

from the soul of the people. It doesn't have anything to do with Betsy Ross. It has to do with what people want."

They want the gay flag, and in every size imaginable. From the beginning, Baker worked with manufacturers to get it mass-produced and available to the public for events such as the Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade.

"Having one big rainbow flag is very nice," he says. "Having 400,000 of them is something entirely different."

"Now the gay parade is fantastic, it's brilliant, it's all the colors of the rainbow. It's every color, and somehow it all works. Every year the parade gets better and better. The messages get more and more sharp, and the messages get farther and farther out there." ▼



San Francisco's Stonewall

Raid on Gay Dance Shoot Up the City

by Allen White

On Jan. 1, 1965, a growing gay community used a New Year's Day dance party to make a stand for their rights. It was, many believe, San Francisco's Stonewall.

Unlike New York City, San Francisco's gay community had been growing and developing for almost a decade. Jose Sarria had already run for public office, becoming the first openly gay person to do so. Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin had founded the Daughters of Bilitis, the first lesbian rights organization in the country. Gay men had joined together to form the Society for Individual Rights. Hal Call had formed the Mattachine Society. Social clubs had formed like the Coits and the bar owners had organized the Tavern Guild.

It was a community that was becoming increasingly visible. Against that visibility was the constant threat of police harassment. Undercover police were assigned to go into gay bars and arrest people for simply touching or hugging each other. Holding hands was an arrestable offense.

The turning point came with a dance sponsored by the Council for Religion and the Homosexual. The organization was the concept of the Rev. Ted McIlvenna, then a young adult director at Glide Church. Working with him was the Rev. Cecil Williams. At the time, Williams had been at Glide for less than a year. Also in the pack of ministers was the Rev. Robert Cromey, who at the time was a special assistant to Episcopal Bishop James Pike, the Rev. Clarence Calwell of the United Church of Christ and Chuck Lewis of the Lutheran's North Beach Mission.

The purpose of the ball was to raise funds to "create a dialogue between the church and the homosexual," said organizers. What they really created was a lavish party with an orchestra and a show. The location was the old California Hall on Polk Street near Turk, which now houses the Culinary Academy.

The police furnished the drama. Prior to the dance they set up floodlights outside the hall. As each person arrived they were photographed.

Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin had arrived early, before the police. They were at the ticket table.

"I remember the people all looked stunned as they came in the front door."

It would be later in the evening before they found out each had run a gauntlet of police cameras.

Herb Caen would report the following week that the police took more than four hours of footage at the event. "Longer than Cleopatra," Caen said, "and probably better."

Outside, on the street, the ministers gathered and observed. The ministers were outraged.

"The police department wanted to deal more in theology rather than open up dialogue," Williams said. "They looked at the rings on our fingers and said, 'We see you're married, how do your wives accept this?'"

There were three lawyers who were present to deal with any legal problems. Before the night ended they would all be in jail. Two of the attorneys were Elliot Leighton and Arroyo Seco.

The third attorney who was arrested that night was Herb Donaldson. He would later



At the infamous ball the fabulous Franklin.

become the second openly gay person in California to be appointed to a judgeship. He now sits on the San Francisco Municipal Court.

They arrested Nancy May, who worked for the Teamsters, because she complained of the treatment. She was charged with obstructing justice.

The entertainment for the night was Franklin. Gene Boche, who many know as Bella, remembers the show as "fabulous."

"Franklin wore this incredible white jewel gown and came out in front of a 25-piece orchestra," Boche said.

Franklin is a hair stylist in the Fairmont Hotel. Wearing the white gown and a Barbra Streisand-styled blond wig, the entertainer came out of the orchestra, one time playing the violin, another time playing the trumpet.

"The band leader played the trumpet off stage," he remembers.

His big number was an impersonation of Marlene Dietrich.

"They had created an outfit made of 1,500 balloons. I will never forget coming out and singing 'You're the Cream in My Coffee.'"

As he performed, the police descended on the 500 people in the building.

"It was really scary," Franklin said. "It seemed so safe."

Franklin had a hard time seeing the crowd because of the lights. He just knew there was commotion.

Somewhere between 20 and 40 police officers descended on the hall. Phyllis Lyon remembers that two people were standing on folding chairs to watch the show. As the chairs began to collapse, the two grabbed for each other.

The two—Konrad Osterreich of Los Angeles and Jon Borset who worked as a display person on Pine Street—whose touching was deemed by police to be lewd were arrested on charges of disorderly conduct. As was the case in those days, part of the punishment was to have your name and where you worked published in the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Bob Cramer was one of dozens of people who had tickets for the event.

"As I drove up I could see all the police and the lights." Like most gays in those days, he drove on.

The dance was held on a Friday night. On Saturday, the ministers held a news conference, angrily denouncing the police. They accused the police of "intimidation and obvious hostility. The Rev. McIlvenna said the police told them "that they thought we were being used by various homosexual organizations in this city."

McIlvenna also said, "It was a very well run ball. After the police forced their way in, it took them more than an hour to find anything wrong."

The following week then-Mayor John Shelley ordered then-Police Chief Thomas Cahill to conduct an investigation.

Raids were nothing new to gays in San Francisco. What was different was the public attention. The ministers had focused attention on the event in a way that had never before been done. Straights in San Francisco were exposed to the gay community through the eyes of the ministers. It made the difference and the relationship between the police, gays, the church and city government would never be the same again.

The Next Generation

What Gay Pride Means to the Young

by Allen White

The 1989 Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade is especially important for the younger members of the gay community.

"This will be the first time to see the parade with the man I love. I am going to take my lover, who is Ben Abner," Nelson Gill, 23, said.

Ben Abner, 25, said he "expects to see people caring for the crowd. I am there for the motivation of everyone else. It builds inner strength for all of us. It is like going to church."

Peter Escalante, 21, said, "It is really fascinating when 250,000 people get out there and make a statement. It lets everybody know there are gay people and a lot of them."

Dan Dibble, 24, is a bartender at the Rendezvous on Polk Street. The parade has a very special meaning for him. It was at the parade that he met his lover, Scott Butler.

"It's our anniversary," he said.

Steve Gomez, 25, who works at the Pacific Center in Berkeley,

looks forward to the parade because he can "be able to say yes, we are gay and yes, we love it, and therefore how can you not love it?"

These are all young people who are becoming part of San Francisco's gay community as it heads into the '90s. Their views are different than their older counterparts. They even define community differently.

"I think there is going to be less of a community in the future," Escalante said. "The community that we have is older people whereas the younger people are more mainstream."

"We never had any reason to group together or anything to fight about," he said. "The older gays had to fight for gay rights, Stonewall and everything. We are now reaping the benefits the older gay men fought for. Of course, there is AIDS, but that is affecting the older gay community, not the younger community."

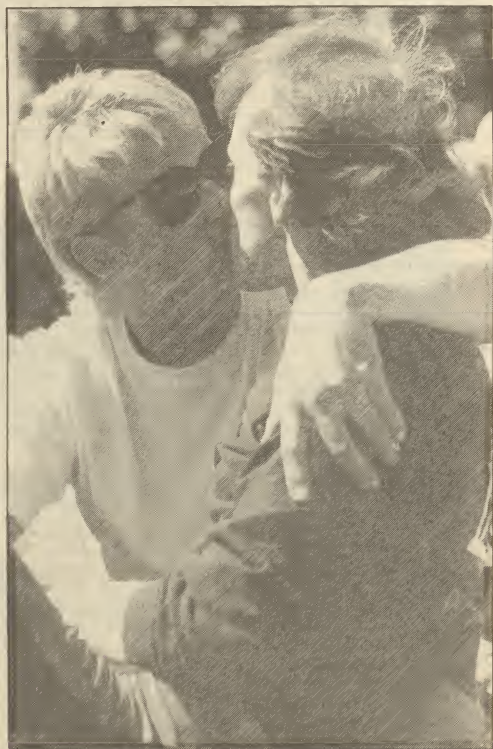
Steve Gomez thinks that the entire spectrum of younger gays is not presented.

"I think that when something is written about gays it is always carefree and social. I don't think it is discussed very often about what young gays do in the community. I work for the Pacific Center in Berkeley. When I was a student at the University of California—Berkeley I was one of the co-writers of the AIDS Education Week there."

"I guess everybody has three parts to their lives," Gomez said. "They have their work, their social life and then their community. Unfortunately, I don't think a lot of gays think of community."

He said the gay community of the future "won't be just a gay ghetto. You know, I think there is a pendulum, and it swings back and forth. I can see how Berkeley in the '60s was so radical and in the '80s has become so much more conservative. I think that is what happened in the gay culture."

"For awhile, with Stonewall and people like Harvey Milk who



Doing what comes naturally.

(Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

(Continued on page 66)

SF's Gay Bars, Restaurants: More Than Places to Eat, Dine

by Allen White

It was 20 years ago on a Sunday in 1969. The mood for many was a certain sadness. The talk over brunch at the Fickle Fox on Valencia or Jackson's on Bay Street was certainly not about the rioting on Christopher Street in New York City. Very few knew of a bar called Stonewall on that Sunday afternoon.

The morning paper carried the news—Judy Garland had died in London.

For more than 40 years there was a very unique, yet very real relationship between the gay community and this entertainer. It was much more than simply hearing "Over the Rainbow." It seemed to be embodied in the struggles of the young actress in *A Star Is Born*. Somehow there was more than a few that crossed the stages of the 181 Club, the Fantasy and the Gilded Cage who wanted to be "Born in a Trunk."



There was the overweight Judy who lost all those pounds and wowed them at Carnegie Hall. Then there was the record album that captured that New York evening. A magical moment could be recreated when a drag queen could emulate Judy Garland singing about "San Francisco."

Many hundreds, possibly thousands, from San Francisco's blooming gay and lesbian community filled the Civic Auditorium to catch a glimpse of Judy Garland in the early '60s. Lesbians jumped out of their seats and their closets to have the chance to shake her hand as she crossed the huge stage.

It was a different era, yet certainly an exciting time for a gay community on the move. There were more than 60 gay bars spread across the city. They seemed to be incredibly unique one from another. Sleazy bars and classy gay restaurants were only a few minutes apart.

For some, the number-one bar was the Rendezvous on Sutter Street. The owners had moved this bastion of gay cruising from a downstairs bar called the Hideaway. As the decade ended, the walk was upstairs to what, at the time, seemed like the largest gay bar in the world.



On Folsom Street, a hipper version of the Rendezvous was in full gear. The Stud was becoming the first stop for a new generation of gays migrating to San Francisco.

Those that ventured onto Folsom from the Stud received a

THE WATERING HOLE



Movin' on . . .
1145 Folsom

quick and, for some, a rather shocking introduction to the city. The center of the gay community seemed to focus on the corner of 11th and Folsom. The bar was called Fe-Be's, and what an experience it was. Sunday afternoon was a time when the community got together.

A community that was still pretty much in the closet looked forward to Sunday afternoons on Folsom. Down from Fe-Be's were several other bars. Finding a good parking place for a motorcycle at the Ramrod was almost as hard as finding a place to sip a beer on Sunday afternoons. Also on the Folsom strip was the Corral, the Watering Hole and the Round-Up.



The lesbian bar of the day was out on Cole Street and it was called Maud's. The closing of the bar this month marks the end of an era for gay San Francisco. It was from an upstairs office in the bar that Rikki Striecher worked to create a new standard of community for lesbians. She would later open Amelia's on Valencia and go on to be a foundation of almost every significant gay community effort that happened in the city.

Ironically, most gay men didn't know of Maud's in those years. What they did know about was Bradley's Corner, which was just a block away and seemed to be the personification of the neighborhood gay bar.

Bars were for more than drinking, and gay restaurants were certainly for more than eating. Gay restaurants became a symbol of a maturing and self-confident

community. A certain statement was made to a person's favorite person and their peers by where they went to eat. The choices were many.

A certain attitude, behind their backs they might call it pretentiousness, was made with a dining experience at Gordon's. Located at Sansome and Broadway, it was assumed that diners would at least attempt to be on their good behavior.

Over at Bay and Stockton was possibly the most popular restaurant of the time—Jackson's. On Friday and Saturday nights and on Sunday afternoons the trick was to get a reservation without too long a wait. Down the street on Bay was another favorite eating spot, the Baj.

For many years, the host at Jackson's was Don Cavallo. He had nurtured a generation of a gay community's young at a subterranean Don's restaurant at



The
Fickle Fox

the corner of Pine and Leavenworth streets. Cavallo then moved from Jackson's and opened his own restaurant, the Fickle Fox, on Valencia near 20th Street.

At the Embarcadero the crowds jammed On the Levee for dinner. A king-cut prime rib sold for \$4.25 on Monday and Thursday nights. Dinners on Friday through Sunday night were priced from \$2.75.

Across town at Presidio and Sacramento was Club Dori. It was a favorite, if for no other reason than the owner, George Banda, a straight man, is given credit by many as being instrumental in the building of San Francisco's gay community as any gay man or lesbian.

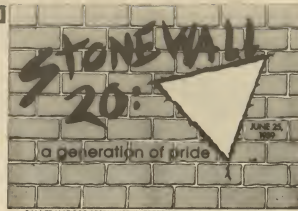
In 1969 the upper Grant Avenue area was somewhat of a collage of an earlier "beat" generation, the hippie era that was in full swing in the Haight and the older, more established gays. The bars and restaurants that did a booming business included the Paper Doll, the Copper Lantern and the Savoy Tivoli.

Gordon's
Restaurant

118 JONES STREET • 771-7575

Polk Gulch was awash in gay bars and restaurants. They began near Post Street with the Lucky Spot and the P.S. Restaurant and continued on up to the Cloud 7 at Union and Polk. In between there were an assortment of bars that went by names like the House of Harmony, the Maple Leaf, the Early Bird and the Yacht Club.

Through it all was the Tenderloin. Bay Area Reporter colum-



Mauds, soon to be no more.

(Photo: Barbara Maggiani)

nist Sweet Lips would reign, or at least seemed to, from the Kokpit bar at Turk and Leavenworth. Down the street near Taylor was the Blue and Gold, the Sound of Music and the Landmark. Just a few blocks away on Mason Street was a cluster of bars operated by a man called Uncle Billy. More than a few drag queens got their start at the Frolic Room and the Scoreboard.

1, 1969. It was the home for six years of Charles Pierce and Rio Dante. The Gilded Cage developed into one of the most important and popular gay establishments in the city. It became known around the world as the home of these two entertainers. It was a place that never lost its gay identity while catering to a mix of straight society types, world travelers and tourists.

When the Gilded Cage closed, Pierce moved to Gold Street, another club in the Broadway area. Though the crowd followed Pierce, it would never create the distinctive identity that took place at the Cage.

Though not as well known, the Fantasy followed in the path of the Gilded Cage to become a home for entertainers who, performing in drag, were always much more than drag queens. The stable of entertainers at the club, which was located in a small alley across from the Downtown Center garage, was headed by Alan Lloyd.

The riots of Stonewall were part of the changes that were taking place as the gay community became part of a genuine movement. Organizations like the Society for Individual Rights were quickly emerging. Police riots of an earlier day were replaced with meetings with then-Police Chief Al Nelder.

It was a changing time, a time when there would be no more Judy Garland. ▼

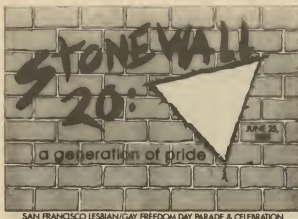


WE'RE SO FAR OUT...
WE'RE IN.

Though just two blocks away from each other the Trapp and the Gilded Cage seemed to represent the total extremes of the city's thriving community. The Trapp would be described by many as a dive. Interestingly, most people who gave it that description were enjoying the environment more than they cared to admit.

The Gilded Cage closed June

Jackson's



Marchers Will Find Plenty To Do At Civic Center

by Allen White

Celebrating the 20th anniversary of Stonewall, the 1989 San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day parade begins Sunday, June 25, at 11 a.m. Moving through dozens of brand-new rainbow flags, the marchers will arrive in the Civic Center where more entertainment and expressions of gay pride will be presented than ever.

This year the parade will begin at the corner of Castro and Market streets. The route will take the parade down Market to Franklin Street. The line of march will then turn left heading north on Franklin. At Grove Street the parade will head toward Civic Center, passing between the Opera House and Davies Symphony Hall. For the first time in several years the route will take the marchers and the floats into Civic Center. The floats will then turn right on Polk Street and leave the parade. The marchers will move into Civic Center Plaza.

The parade will form back from Market Street on Castro to 19th Street and east, west on 18th to Collingwood and east on 18th Street to Dolores.

Leading the parade will again be Dykes on Bikes. For the past year, the several women's motorcycle groups have been meeting to create new guidelines for the participants. They will arrive at the parade route coming down

Market Street and crossing the intersection of Castro as they move into the parade route.

They will be followed by the grand marshals of the parade—Phyllis Lyon and her lover of 35 years, Del Martin, and San Francisco gay entertainment legend Jose Sarria.

Though the theme of the parade and celebration is the 20th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising in New York, the grand marshals represent a history of San Francisco's gay movement, which predates Stonewall by many years.

Included in the more than 200 floats and marching units will be the Women's Float. This will be the first time in several years that many women and their organizations have joined together to construct an entry in the parade.

At the Civic Center, parade participants will find a disco-dance tent, four stages and a visual-arts display. Activities on each of the stages begins at noon and concludes with a finale on the stage in front of City Hall.

The stage in front of the Polk Street entrance to City Hall will be set off by a giant pink backdrop created by Gilbert Baker.

One of the most dynamic of the new entertainment areas will be an exhibition performance

area on Polk Street between McAllister and Golden Gate Avenue. A wide range of activities will be presented including choral groups, martial-arts groups, square dancers and members of a gay wrestling club.

A smaller, more intimate club atmosphere is slated for the cabaret stage at McAllister and Hyde streets. Featured at this location will be entertainers presenting a range of music including jazz, rhythm and blues, show tunes, gospel and a variety of other musical forms.

Another entertainment stage will be located at Larkin and Golden Gate. Local bands, comedians, singers and speakers will be featured.

Lesbian/gay artists will be the focus of a unique visual-arts display, which will be located in the Civic Center Plaza.

A special-needs parade viewing area will be located on the north side of Grove Street between Van Ness and Polk. There will also be special-needs viewing and seating areas at each stage.

To identify the many areas in the Civic Center, the entire plaza will be coded with the many colors from the rainbow flag. Balloon clusters will be placed to highlight each quadrant. For example, Polk Street will become purple with the areas adjacent to



Before the grandstand in 1988.

(Photo: Rink)

the Civic Center reflecting pool colored orange and yellow. The color for Larkin Street is blue and red, while McAllister Street will be designated by lavender and green.

This year is the 10th anniversary of the Path of Gold Rainbow Flag display on Market Street. Raising Colors has been responsible for the project since 1984. This year's display features a more reliable design incor-

porating the original flags.

Raising Colors commissioned Gilber Baker, a San Francisco vexillographic artist whose vision inspired the original rainbow flag, to re-engineer and improve the existing design. Past problems have included theft and wind damage. The new design solves these problems by eliminating stress with a higher placement.

Plenty of Gay Day Tea Dances Planned

by Allen White

"Let's Dance At The Beach" is just one of the many events that will bring to a close the 20th anniversary of Stonewall and Lesbian/Gay Freedom Week in San Francisco. The annual tea dance begins Sunday afternoon at the Gift Center. The dance features the special appearance of the Del Rubio Triplets. All proceeds go to the AIDS Emergency Fund, and tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door, and are on sale at all San Francisco Headlines locations.

Crew joins together with Fraternity for a "Toga, Toga, Toga," which is just that, a toga party. Party starts at 4 p.m. at 520 4th Street. Cost is \$8 at the door. There will be an in-house seamstress selling togas. The party goes till 2 a.m.

"Solid As A Rock, 1989," starts at 5 p.m. at the I-Beam. Their star this year is Chrysalis recording star, Adeva, who will sing her hit "Respect." Admission is \$3 with an I-Beam pass.

Dreamland presents their annual Gay Day tea dance party with admission set at \$10. The Box After Parade Dance Party starts at 5 p.m. and is priced at \$6.

The final event of HIV Treatment Awareness Week will be a tea dance fundraiser party in the San Francisco Civic Auditorium from 4-9 p.m. Tickets will be available at BASS/Ticketmaster with the proceeds benefitting HIV Treatment Awareness Week sponsoring organizations.

Leading up to the parade and

celebration on Sunday there will also be many other events throughout the community. Tonight (Thursday, June 22) Romanovsky & Phillips perform in concert at the Great American Music Hall. The show starts at 8 p.m. and tickets are available through BASS or at the box office for \$11.

Dyke Drag, a lip sync contest, starts at 9 p.m. at Amelia's, 647 Valencia St. There is a \$100 door prize and admission is \$5. At 7:30, Pat Califia will be signing

and reading from her book, *Macho Sluts*, at the Old Wives Tales Bookstore at 1009 Valencia.

The 11th Annual Gay Musical Celebration will be presented Friday night, 8 p.m., at the Mission High School Auditorium. Participating will be several lesbian and gay choruses from throughout Northern California. Included will be the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco, the Golden Gate Men's Chorus, the Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus

of San Jose, the Sacramento Men's Chorus, the Sacramento Women's Chorus, Voices (the San Francisco Lesbian Chorus) and the Santa Cruz Men's Chorus. Tickets are \$10 in advance and are on sale at Headlines. \$12 at the door.

Bill Folk, who is billed as "America's Gay Troubadour," performs with his group in concert at Noe Valley Ministry Friday night. Tickets at the door are \$12 each.

Remembering Stonewall, a 30-minute documentary, will be broadcast Friday on KPFA at 7:30 a.m. and again at noon.

The Harry Walker Softball Classic will again be presented in cooperation with the Gay Softball League on Saturday, June 24. Teams in the Gay Softball League will participate in the all-day activity at Lang Field, Cough and Turk streets. The classic will be a benefit for the Godfather Service Fund.

The annual "Puttin' On The Ritz" begins at 9 p.m., Saturday at the Gift Center. This is one of the premier events in the women's community. The Bay Area Career Women produce this evening, and the music this year is by Dianne Davidson and her rock band. The price is \$25 for BACW members, \$35 if you're not. Add \$5 at the door. Tickets are available through BASS.

The annual Gay Comedy Extravaganza will feature Tom Amiano, Karen Williams, Laurie Bushman, Mark Johnson, Lelly Kittell, Karen Ripley, Jeanine Strobel, the Doublemint Twins and others. Each year the show features some of the best in Bay Area comic talent. The theme of this year's presentation is "A Stonewall Laugh Riot." The show will begin at 9 p.m. at the Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th St. Tix are \$10 in advance through BASS and, if available, \$12 at the door.

The Arcadia Bodybuilding Society presents "Physique '89,"

(Continued on next page)



A large gathering of women having a good time.

(Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

Sunday's Performance Schedules

Following are the scheduled lineups of performers and speakers on the four stages in Civic Center on Sunday, June 25, Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day. The schedules were provided by the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Committee.

City Hall Stage City Hall Steps Stage Manager: Gary Walker

- 12:45 Emcees:
Enola Maxwell, executive director Potrero Hill Neighborhood House
Jan Mirikitani, Asian poet and wife of Rev. Cecil Williams
- 12:50 Assemblywoman Jackie Spier
Robin Tyler
Co-Chairs' welcome, announcements and booth winners announced
Emcee: Cleve Jones
ACT UP, Arawn Eibhlyn
Cleve Jones on the lesbian/gay movement
Rainbeau
Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, grand marshals
Dianne Davidson Band
Dr. Mervyn Silverman
Danny Williams
Rev. Cecil Williams
Australians Rodney Croom and Robert Jarmen
Roberta Achtenberg
Watchout
Rikki Streicher and George Mendenhall
Marga Gomez
Emcees:
Maurice Belote, president of the Harvey Milk Democratic Club
Miriam Abrams, founder and executive director of Bay Area Women's Philharmonic
Lisa Cohen and Band
Eric Rofes of Shanti Project
Barbara Borden
Darlene Popovic
Award to Hank Wilson by Paul Boneberg
Voices
Irene Soderberg
Speaker from Gay Games III and Team San Francisco
Elaine Townsend
Diebold & Co.
Flo Tumolo and Scott Johnston lead singing in "United We Stand"
Close stage and celebration

Exhibition Stage Polk and Golden Gate Stage Manager: Greg Ercolini

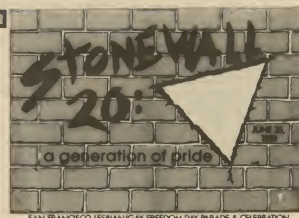
- 12:30 Emcees:
Mary Midget, Bay BLAC
Chris Sanderval, AIDS office
Loli-La, Polynesian dance troupe—mixed
Gene Okita individually and group
Mike Smith of Names Project on volunteerism
Vukani Mawethu
Sisterwoman aka Warren Page
Jeffrey Lily, poet
Shan Carr, comedienne
Emcees: Steve Rasher and Lily Street
Arcadia Body Builders
Co-chairs' welcome and announcements
South Bay leather fashion show
Page Hodel and Box Dance Troupe
Rainbeau
Emcees:
Barbara Cameron, executive director of CUAV
Bob Cramer
Rueven as Lady Dr. Paplova
ACT UP guerilla theater
Saddletamps
Golden Gate Wrestling Club
Barbara Cameron
Donald Matsuta on Gay Asians
Emcees:
Marsha Levine, president of board of directors of parade
Jim Baroni
Donna Ozawa
Speaker from Lambda Delta Lambda
Leather history series, Ricky Stricko
Wrap up

Cabaret Stage Larkin and Golden Gate Stage Manager: Jackie Starren

- 12:30 Emcees:
Karen Williams, comedienne
Greg Brock, gay editor of *Examiner*
Aldo Bell
Lauren Mayer
Katie Belle Collins
Ron Albert from NLGLA and public defender
Karen Williams
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band
Donald Westcoat
Cynthia Bythell
Matt Coles, ACLU
Scott Johnston
Ms. Morgen Aiken
Samm Grey
Samm and Scott
Morgen and Jackie
Emcees: Empress Pat Montclair and Emperor Jerry Coletti
Pat and Jerry opening remarks
Pat Montclair and company
Co-chairs' welcome and announcements
Menage
Fiddlestix
Solomon Rose
Michael Hardwick
John Magee
Larry Dean Gooden
Barbara Baum and Cynthia Jamison
Emcees:
Linda Lopes, co-chair of celebration, social director of BACW, coordinator of Allow, and founder and chair of Mensa
Ben Schatz, NGRA
Deidra McCalla
Miki Graham on lesbian/gay parenting and the law
Brandy Moore of Assembly Speaker Willie Brown's office
Charlene Mason
Carol Notaro
Cliff Morrison
Unincorporated Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence
Stephen and Steven
Larry Saxton, executive director of Alameda AIDS Office
Eddie Blandini

Band and Music Stage Hyde and McAllister Stage Manager: Jessie Kane

- 12:30 Emcees:
Bill Camillo, co-chair of celebration
Supervisor Wendy Nelder
Excerpt from play *Noises Off*
Different Touch
Lisa Gyax
Lesbian Uprising
Mary Gemini
Emcees:
Russ Alley of *Good Morning Bay Area*
Supervisor Angela Alioto
Kenny Sacha as Bette Midler
Mamma's and Dadda's
Lisa Kellman
Ann Wilson, Republican and incoming president of BACW
Rueven
Emcees:
Kathy Wolfe, Wolfe Video
Hydie Downard, co-chair of Cable Car Awards, member of board of directors of parade, co-producer Closet, member of Imperial Board of Trustees, Women's Float Committee, and vice president
The Sweet Life
Tret Fure
Co-chairs' welcome and announcements
Judy Dlugacs, Olivia Records on the women's movement and music
K.C. Frogge
Vito Russo
Blues per Square Inch
Lu Ellen Schafer, comedienne
Judi Friedman
Laura Berkson
Emcees: Ben Dong and Gus Bean
Arnold L.A.
Industrial Rainforest
Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence Inc.
The Cream Sisters
Anzanga Marimba Ensemble



Tea Dance

(Continued from previous page)

the National Gay and Lesbian Bodybuilding Championships, Saturday, June 24, at the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco. This activity begins with pre-judging at 9 a.m. The final competition is presented in a show Saturday evening starting at 7. Proceeds from the event will be used to provide a scholarship fund for bodybuilders to attend and compete in Gay Games III in Vancouver in 1990. Tix for pre-judging are \$5 at the door. The 7 p.m. event costs \$35, \$20 and \$15 and tix are available through BASS.

Following the "Physique '89" show there will be an after show party called "Instant Replay" at the I-Beam, 1748 Haight St. A video dance will feature an uncut instant replay of the evening's competition, and organizers promise an opportunity to mingle with the bodybuilders. Admission is \$3. With a \$35 Physique '89 ticket you get in the I-Beam free.

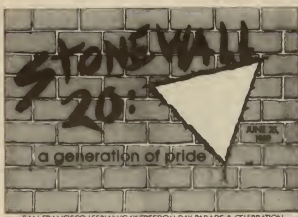
Crew is planning its "Muscle Beach" party to start at 9 p.m. at 520 4th St. on Saturday night. Entertainer Chaka Khan will be performing selections from her latest house music release. There will also be a Joe Boxer fashion show, a drag queen swimsuit competition and surfer films. They plan to use the alley next to the dance facility for a Weiner roast, and they hope to have a volleyball court. The tickets are \$15 at all BASS outlets including Headlines, and also at the door.

Local AIDS organizations will sponsor AIDS Treatment Awareness Week, which continues at the Civic Auditorium through Sunday. The purpose is to make all people, not just the privileged, aware of how much can now be done in the area of treatment that can slow the progression of HIV disease. The innovative three-day HIV symposium is designed to offer people with HIV infection, health-care providers, and public and private policy-makers the latest information and cutting edge perspectives on the management of HIV disease.

Sponsors of HIV Treatment Awareness Week are Project Inform, AIDS Service Providers Association of the Bay Area, Bayview Hunter's Point Foundation, Latino AIDS Project of Instituto Familiar de La Raza, Mobilization Against AIDS, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the San Francisco Department of Public Health. For more information on HIV Awareness Week call 955-2666.

The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Film Festival continues on at the Castro. Thursday night *Some Of My Best Friends Are...* will be shown at 7, with *Urinal* at 9:30. Tix are \$6. *Johanna D'Arc of Mongolia* shows Friday at 6:30, *Taxi to Cairo* and *Interior Decorator from Hell* show at 10, with *Pink Narcissus* at midnight.

On Friday the Film Festival will also screen videos at the Roxie throughout the day and evening. Throughout Saturday the festival continues at both the Castro and Roxie. The festival concludes on Sunday at the Roxie. ▼



Next Generation

(Continued from page 62)

died, I think something like that hasn't happened for awhile, so people are swinging to a conservative mode. They are seeking out their own identity, their own careers. There is really a move to make oneself more professional and be better through their own work rather than the community."

Gomez is a person who daily makes a contribution to the community through his work.

"Part of how I could help my community was by joining the Speakers Bureau at the Pacific Center and reaching out to young kids and going through my coming-out experience. I may be able to shed some light and say it's OK to be gay. I went through the same sort of things, and I wish there were someone out there who would say it's OK to be gay. You know, I had a hard time going through it."

Looking at his peers he said, "Maybe our role models are everyday individuals, and I think the culture is assimilating into the mainstream culture. I don't think that's bad. I think it means the mainstream culture is now beginning to accept homosexuality. In the early '70s I think it was them versus us and there was conflict. I think that was good for the time, that we needed to show people that yes, we are humans, yes, we should have the same rights."

Dibble works almost every night at the Rendezvous bar on Polk Street.

"I think a lot of people are going back into the closet. I think

there is a fear about being gay. I don't think people are joining gay organizations, at least as much as they should."

On Polk Street many people have the "attitude of fuck everything, it may end soon," Dibble said. "They don't tell me their goals."

Abner has been a part of San Francisco's gay community for eight years. He went to his first gay parade in 1981. He said the gay community today was something "that is thriving and growing and something that is usually ignored by other gay people. There is more than just jeans and chaps. There is more than Castro clones, there is new wave."

Younger gays, Abner said, "are more interested in themselves and still interested in the world, more than just the gay community. For me it mixes better socially. We are not trying to be as prominent, we are trying to mix with society."

Abner believes gays want to be assimilated into the general community "where they don't care if we are gay. We want to be where we are, no different than anyone else."

"We have to move with the flow," Abner said. "We are more than gay. We are people. Gay people are going to be in many communities because that is the only way we can build. Intertwining is the only way to grow."

Gill moved to San Francisco from Eagle Pass, Texas, where, he said, there was a very closed gay community. He was open to his parents. When he goes to the parade on Sunday he proudly wants to tell the gay community to hold its head up high. ▼

Muni Alters Service For Parade

Muni will provide special service and will adjust service on several routes because of the Gay Freedom Day Parade and Celebration Sunday, starting at 11 a.m.

From 9:15 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. there will be special service on the 84 Gay Freedom Day Shuttle for regular Muni fares. The line will run from Stanyan and Haight via Haight, Divisadero and Castro to Market Street.

From 9:10 a.m. to 12:40 p.m., extra motor-coach service will be provided on the 24 Divisadero line from Jackson and Webster via its regular route to Castro and Market streets.

Muni Metro will run extra trains between the Embarcadero and West Portal stations from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. The 8 Market line will have extra service from the Ferry Terminal to Sanchez Street, from 9 a.m. to noon, and between Market and 10th and 18th and Castro, from 3 to 7 p.m.

Service reroutes and adjustments may occur on the following lines as well: 5, 6, 7, 8, 19, 21, 22, 24, 26, 33, 35, 37, 42, 47, 49, 71, J streetcars, and K and L motor coaches.

For information, call 673-MUNI. ▼

Benefit Concert For MCC, AIDS Emergency Fund

The Concerto Collective will perform a program of concertos and arias to benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund and the Metropolitan Community Church AIDS Ministry, June 23, at 8 p.m. at MCC, 150 Eureka St.

The Concerto Collective is a newly formed chamber orchestra, which collaborates with singers and dancers, and features its members as concerto soloists, conductors and composers.

Featured works include J.S. Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 4, (conducted by Kathy Gislser), with soloists Janet Katulas, Susan Yeal Smith (flutes) and Valerie Tisdell (violin); W.A. Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 12 in A Major, with pianist Set Montfort; C.M. von Weber's Concertino for Horn, Op. 45, with soloist Christopher Baker; and arias by Mozart, Boito and Montfort, featuring bass David Tigner, soprano Cynthia Anne Pryor, and baritone Scott Hampton. Conductor: José Luis Moscovich.

The AIDS Emergency Fund provides emergency grants for rent, food and medical expenses to persons with AIDS. The MCC AIDS Ministry serves the spiritual needs of persons with AIDS. ▼

The Marching Order For Sunday's Parade



Following is the order of appearance of contingents in Sunday's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade. The parade will step off from the intersection of Castro and Market streets at 11 a.m. The staging area will be located on Castro Street between Market and 19th streets and on 18th between Collingwood and Dolores streets. Representatives of the various contingents are being notified by the parade committee of their specific line-up locations.

1. Women's Motorcycle Contingent
2. Parade Banner/Committee Chairs
3. Parade Banner Flag Corps
4. Parade Grand Marshals Cars
5. San Francisco Gay Freedom Marching Band
6. The Original Stonewallers
7. Project Inform
8. People With AIDS-San Francisco
9. SF AIDS Foundation
10. Shanti Project
11. SF General Hospital AIDS Program
12. Mayor Art Agnos
13. AIDS Clinic-UCSF
14. AIDS Emergency Fund
15. AIDS Emergency Fund-Let's Dance
16. AIDS Project of the East Bay
17. ARCAIDS Vigil
18. Food For Thought
19. United Gay Hemophiliacs
20. Aris Project, Inc.
21. ACTUP
22. Columbia Pacific U/Camp Sunburst Project
23. Rest Stop Support Center
24. Lesbian Uprising
25. Artists in Search of an Award
26. Asian Pacific Lesbians
27. Gay American Indians
28. American Indian AIDS Institute

30. Esta Noche
31. Gay Asian Pacific Alliance
32. United Food/Commercial Workers Loc. 1100
33. Communication Workers of America: local 9410
34. Alexander Hamilton Post #448
35. Veteran's C.A.R.E.
36. Warren Page/Sister Woman & Farkle Sisters
37. PFLAG
38. Gay Fathers of the S.F. Bay Area
39. Lesbian/Gay Parenting Group
40. KQED G.A.L.S.
41. The Box
42. ELLIPSE Peninsula AIDS Service
43. STEPS: Empowerment for HIV+ People
44. AIDS Health Project
45. MAPS Network
46. San Francisco ARC/AIDS Theatre
47. An Evening At La Cage
48. Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco
49. Peter Claver Community
50. 18th Street Services
51. Acceptance Place/Baker House
52. Freedom Song Network
53. Visiting Nurses & Hospice of SF
54. Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights
55. Pacific Center for Human Growth
56. Imperial Court of the Lion & the Lady
57. Bay Area SM Community
58. South Bay Leather & Uniform Group
59. Billy DeFrank Lesbian/Gay Community Center
60. SF Lesbian/Gay Community Center Committee
61. Operation Concern-Seniors
62. Metropolitan Community Church-SF
63. Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
64. Bethany United Methodist Church
65. Dignity-San Francisco
66. Face to Face/Sonoma County AIDS Network
67. San Mateo County AIDS Project
68. Golden State Gay Rodeo Association

69. C.G.N.I.E.-Court of Sacramento
70. Theatre Rhinoceros
71. Central YMCA
72. Kenpo Karate School for Women
73. Charles H. Duggan Presents/ Greater Tuna
74. Real Women
75. SF Gay and Lesbian Historical Society
76. Surviving Partners of People with AIDS
77. Godfather Service Fund
78. Continuum
79. All Peoples Congress
80. BALINFEPH
81. Committee to Defend Reproductive Rights
82. Bay Area Coalition Against Operation Rescue
83. Women of Mendocino Bay
84. Living Sober
85. Incest Survivors
86. Check to Check
87. Bay Area Bisexual Network
88. Black and White Men Together-SF
89. Campus Theatre
90. E.T.V.C.
91. Gays/Lesbians/Bi's/Allies
92. Just Rewards
93. Oakland Parade Contingent
94. Imperial San Joaquin Delta Empire
95. New Alliance Party
96. St. Park Advocates for Gay/Lesbian Rights
97. East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club
98. Federal Lesbians and Gays
99. Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services
100. Project Open Hand
101. Ayurveda Health & Education Resources-SF
102. Contra Costa County AIDS Task Force
103. Service Through Touch
104. Lobby for Individual Freedom & Equality
105. Castro Lions
106. Rawhide II
107. RSVP Travel Productions Inc.
108. Simeon's Girls



(Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

Lung Association Quit Smoking Program

The American Lung Association of San Francisco is conducting a Freedom From Smoking program at business offices around the city.

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Call 543-4410 to find out how your company can sponsor a Freedom From Smoking clinic. ▼

700-Seat Grandstand To Be Erected for Parade

A 700-seat grandstand will be constructed for viewing the 1989 Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade. This is the first time in the 19-year history of the parade that a viewing area of this type has been made available. Tickets are \$25 each and are on sale at all San Francisco Headlines stores.

The seats will be located on the north side of Market Street at Noe.

An additional 140 seats will be available free for people with AIDS. The remaining seats will be used for judges as well as special guests of the parade committee. ▼

The parade is the largest annual lesbian/gay event in the world and, with the exception of the Tournament of Roses Parade, is the largest annual parade in California. ▼

The 1989 San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade, which will begin Sunday, June 25 at 11 a.m., is presented by the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Committee and is funded, in part, through the Grants for the Arts program of the city of San Francisco. ▼

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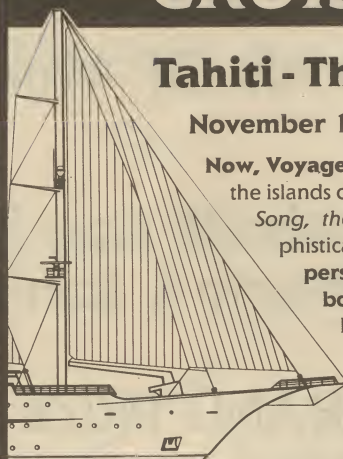
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BAY AREA REPORTER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

by Keith White

Dance, the most intimate and revealing of performing arts, has often been the precursor of moral fashion. The shortening of ballet's ankle-length tutu preceded by 20 years the universal raising of women's hemlines. And in this century, the inclusion of homosexual subject matter in ballet preceded, by a few years, the uprising known as "Stonewall" that would herald advancing sexual freedom, recognition of a gay cultural sensibility, and the continuing fight for political reforms. But conservatism has proven as tenacious in dance as anywhere else, and a strong homosexual presence in American ballet and modern dance has receded to a mere whisper of what it was in the '70s.

Homosexuality in dance has always seemed more theatrically viable in Western Europe than in America, both before and after the Stonewall riots. But a 10-year period of bold sexuality in ballet began multi-locally around 1966. During that year in New York the Joffrey Ballet's house choreographer, Gerald Arpino, created the all-male ballet *Olympics*, while in Amsterdam, Rudi Van Dantzig created *Monument for a Dead Boy* for the Dutch National Ballet. Both ballets were patently homoerotic, and as such, revolutionary. But Van Dantzig's work explored the psychological underpinnings of homosexual fantasy, while Arpino presented

a masculine athleticism less irritating to American homophobia—and it had precedents in Ted Shawn's unromantic, all-male dances of the late '30s.

In spite of its detractors (Arlene Croce called it "a trash masterpiece," and "a triumph of whole-souled vulgarity"), *Monument for a Dead Boy* was produced in America by both the Harkness Ballet, in 1967, and by American Ballet Theatre, in 1973. Its protagonist has had illustrious interpreters, including Ivan Nagy, Rudolph Nureyev, and Lawrence Rhodes. In ballet a climate of gay visibility was emerging, which would seem, in retrospect, intimately connected to the advent of gay liberation. These were the years when many male ballet stars (of the magnitude of the Royal Ballet's Anthony Dowell) appeared nude in *After Dark* magazine in Kenn Duncan's photographs, and gay liberation and the sexual revolution appeared to be components of the same general trend.

During the few years following Stonewall, there was a flurry of gay-appearing (if not exactly genuinely gay-affirmative) ballets emanating from several European and American companies. What appeared then to be a major trend in dance can now be seen to be the work of a handful of daring gay choreographers. During their single year as co-directors of the Netherlands

Dance Theatre, Glen Tetley, an American, and Hans Van Manen, a Dutchman, collaborated on *Mutations* (1969), whose male pas de deux (and male and female nudity) was unabashedly celebrated by New Yorkers, and reviewed quite seriously by the New York press when the company appeared there in 1970. Maurice Bejart's Brussels-based Ballet of the 20th Century became popular in North America at this time. Bejart's



"Gemini"

—Maurice Seymour/ 1975

preoccupation with male sexuality was buried in a late-'60s youth culture syntax, but in the mind of mainstream America at that time, so was gay liberation.

Among American ballet companies, the Harkness Ballet and the Joffrey Ballet were willing to continue to take risks—at least

for awhile. The Harkness Ballet, funded by multi-millionaire Rebekah Harkness and based in New York, disbanded in the late '70s as a result of Harkness'

stock-market reversals. But the company's last artistic director, Vicente Nebrada, created, as one of the Harkness signature ballets, a male pas de deux so beautiful that even heterosexual audience members sometimes wept when they saw it. This duet, *Gemini* (to the Adagietto from Mahler's Fifth Symphony), still exists in the repertoires of several foreign companies, but is rarely seen in the United States since the Harkness demise.

(Continued on page 108)

Movies

From Stonewall to 'Torch Song'

by Daniel Mangin

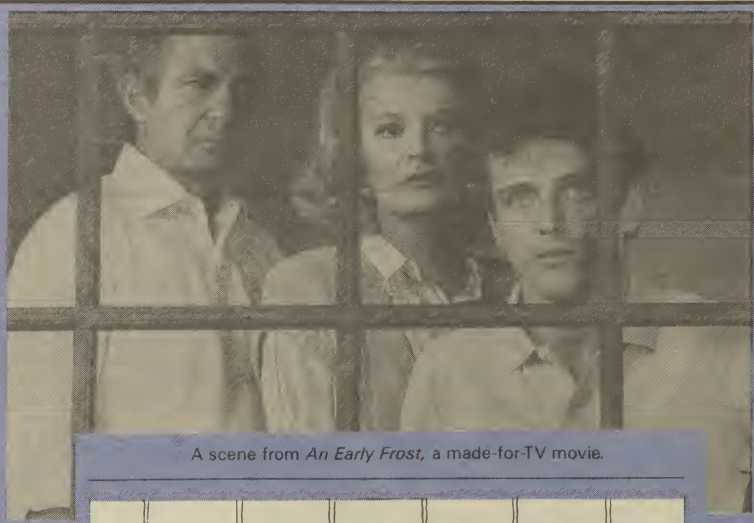
In 1968, one year before Stonewall, American and European filmmakers responded to the wave of taboo-smashing and social anarchy that characterized life in the late 1960s by issuing more than a dozen films dealing with homosexuality. Lesbian lovemaking, hitherto confined to pecks on the cheek and furtive passion, splashed onto the screens of commercial cinemas with a vengeance in films like *Therese and Isabelle* and *The Killing of Sister George*. Male-male love, a mere hint in films as late as the early 1960s, was strongly evident or depicted outright in mainstream and arthouse films like *The Detective*, *The Sergeant and Flesh*, the latter taking a lighthearted look at sexuality and the body as an instrument of both business and pleasure.

Some of these pre-Stonewall flicks were coy, others were downright overt, but the thing they had in common was that, for the most part, the public stayed away in droves. The financial setbacks these films suffered con-

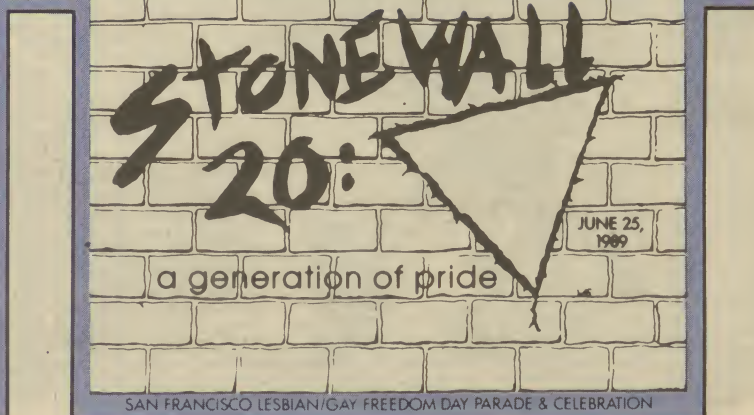
firmed two longheld Hollywood beliefs, namely that mainstream audiences won't go for homosexual plots and the gay audience on its own isn't large enough to support films that contain them. Hollywood producers learned their lesson from this and presented precious few gay characters for the next few years. When such folk did appear it was usually in a form—swishy fags and "mannish femmes"—that the average moviegoer could easily comprehend.

Twenty-one years later dramatic and heartening progress is evident on several fronts, including an increase in the number and range of gay characters in commercial pictures, regular production of made-for-television movies on gay topics, a variety of independent, experimental and "art house" films by and about lesbians and gays, and the establishment of a worldwide gay film festival circuit. The abundance of gratuitous "fag" and "dyke" jokes in mainstream film, along with scurrilous television productions like this year's *Midnight*

(Continued on page 70)



A scene from *An Early Frost*, a made-for-TV movie.





Michael Ontkean, Kate Jackson and Harry Hamlin starred in *Making Love* (1982).

Movies

(Continued from page 69)

Caller episode about a bisexual man deliberately spreading AIDS, are reminders that lesbians and gays remain popular and easy targets for bigots. But on the whole the 20th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion can be said to mark a period of great progress.

Hollywood buried the Motion Picture Production Code, the big studios' self-censorship vehicle established in response to the Catholic Church and other "guardians" of public morality, in 1968, replacing it with the

rating-by-letters system. Enacted in 1930 and rigidly enforced from 1934 to 1961, the "code" specifically prohibited the depiction of "sexual perversion or any inference of it." Pressure from the studios on behalf of several films containing homosexual themes, including Otto Preminger's *Advise and Consent* and William Wyler's *The Children's Hour* (both released in 1962), had led to the code's amendment in late 1961 to permit "sexual aberration" if treated with "care, discretion and restraint," which in those days essentially meant it was all right to include homosexual characters as long as they ultimately paid a heavy price for their orientation.

By 1968 the code was history and even venerable *Life* magazine saw fit to cover the new lesbian films, offering its readers a titillating three-page spread focusing on *The Killing of Sister George*, the film that got the most ink of any gay movie in the 1960s. *Life's* piece, titled, appropriately enough, "The Shock of Seeing a Hidden World," was authored by *Time* film reviewer Richard Schickel, who pleaded for "reasonable" and "adult" responses to the provocative subject matter in between pejorative plot descriptions.

The early 1970s saw a continuation of the "look inside a shocking world" genre, with films like *Staircase* (1969), *The Boys in the Band* (1970), *Some of My Best Friends Are...* (1971) and *Fortune and Men's Eyes* (1971) putting gay men under the microscope the way *Sister George* did to lesbians, but there were some notable exceptions. *Sunday, Bloody Sunday* stands out as one of the rare films of the period to deal sensitively and intelligently with the subject of love between men, although as Vito Russo notes in *The Celluloid Closet*, this film fared no better at the box office than the films of 1968.

Also significant was the 1975 film *Dog Day Afternoon*, featuring Al Pacino as a bank robber who turns out to be pulling a heist so he can help his male lover finance a sex change operation. As with the Peter Finch/Murray Head kiss in *Sunday, Bloody Sunday*, audible gasps were heard in theaters across America when audiences realized *Dog Day* was really a story about two star-crossed gay lovers.

Perhaps the most significant development of the early 1970s occurred on television, and no, it wasn't the *Phil Donahue Show*. The first made-for-TV movie about gays, *That Certain Summer*, appeared in 1972. An above-average drama starring Martin Sheen and Hal Holbrook, *That Certain Summer* focused on a father's coming out to his teenaged son. The show opened the door for television homosexuals and was followed through the years by some very fine if occasionally didactic productions: *A Question of Love* (1978), *Sergeant Matlovich vs. The U.S. Air Force* (1978), *Sidney Shorr: A Girl's Best Friend* (1981), *An Early Frost* (1985), *Consenting Adult* (1985), and the recent *The Women of Brewster Place* (1989), the last segment of which included a moving lesbian subplot. *Brewster Place* was directed by Donna Deitch of *Desert Hearts* fame.

I used to wonder who these TV films reached and whether such gays-are-just-or-almost-just-like-everyone-else productions aren't merely the flip side of the "shocking world of" films—hollow and ultimately "unreal" representations when all is said and done.

At the beginning of each semester in the class in lesbian and gay film I teach at City College of San Francisco, I ask students to recall the first lesbian or gay image they remember seeing and also to list films they feel had an impact on their awareness and/or acceptance of their sexual orientation. The TV movies listed above, along with the PBS productions *An American Family* (1972), *The Naked Civil Servant* (1975), and *The War Widow* (1976), tend to be mentioned even more often than so-called "breakthrough" Hollywood



Geoff Edholm and David Schachter in Arthur Bressan's *Buddies* (1985).

films like *Making Love* or *Personal Best* (both in 1982), an indication that along with helping straights to understand homosexuality, the TV films assist lesbians and gays in developing positive self-images.

Although their work is seen by comparatively fewer people than the TV movies, the contributions of documentary and experimental filmmakers during the past 20 years have been monumental. Landmark documentaries such as *Gay USA*, *Word is Out* (both 1978), the Oscar-winning *The Times of Harvey Milk* (1984) and *Before Stonewall* (1985), each provided a refreshing antidote to the distorted view of gay life often the case in the mainstream cinema. The films managed to present a comprehensive portrait of lesbian and gay lives without kowtowing to the demands of the straight media.

Well before Stonewall, experimental filmmakers were challenging audiences with their subversion of conventional imagery. Parts of *Lot in Sodom* (1933), a stylized rendition of the Biblical tale, could easily be mistaken for a low-budget documentary of the goings-on at a 1970s gay bathhouse, for instance, and Kenneth Anger's *Fireworks* (1947) remains one of the best gay sex fantasies every recorded.

Since Stonewall, the works of Barbara Hammer, James Broughton and Curt McDowell, to name a mere few, influenced not only lesbians and gays, but also the art of film itself. Hammer has noted that the growth process she went through in her early work paralleled in some ways that of the gay community. Films such as *Multiple Orgasm*

(Continued on page 72)



From the documentary *Before Stonewall*.



A scene from *Johanna D'Arc of Mongolia*.

The Tony Award-Winning Broadway Play Is Now On Videocassette.



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Movies

(Continued from page 70)

(1977), which makes an emphatic connection between female sexuality and nature, and *Double-strength* (1978), about the various stages in the relationship between two women, deal directly with the politics of the body and the creation of new ways of loving. In Hammer's later work, aesthetic concerns dominate, but do so grounded in a lesbian/feminist sensibility.

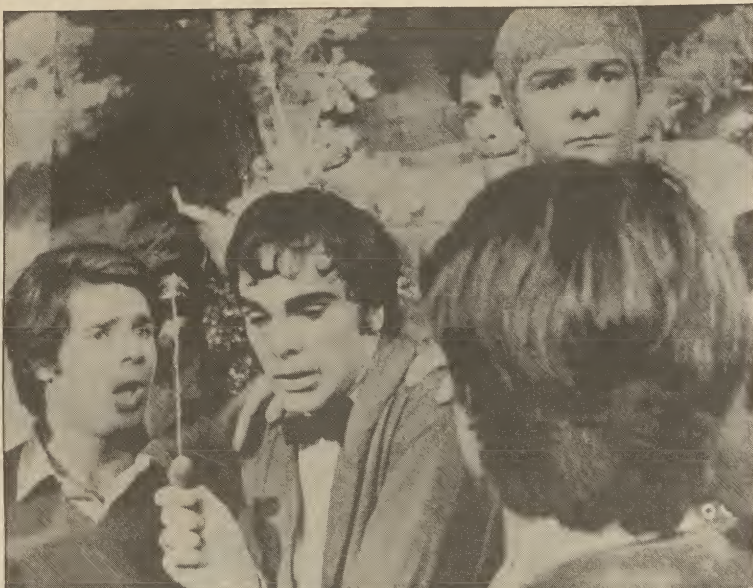
The films of Broughton and McDowell relate the joy of sex in strikingly different but equally poignant ways. In works such as *Hermes Bird* (1979) and *Devotions* (1983), Broughton celebrates the possibilities for positive, guilt-free manifestations of male energy. In McDowell's films, a dash of latent naughtiness contributes to the exhilarating, omnisexual eroticism of his best works, including *Confessions* (1971), *Ronnie* (1972), *Thundercrack* (1975) and *Loads* (1980).

The experimental works are part of what might be called a "grassroots" movement that through the years has included anything from consciousness-raising lesbian productions of the 1970s, to video art and "guerilla" filmmaking. A look at Jan Oxenberg's 1971 film *Home Movie*, a staple of women's film festivals and lesbian/feminist groups of the 1970s, shows on just how many levels such productions can contribute to their makers as well as the public at large.

Oxenberg's film is shot in typical "home movie" style, but the viewer of 1971 was confounded by its content, a young woman's coming out story. That the film looks incredibly dated now is quite the point—we've all come a long way from the "gay-ins" shown in the film and imitated by those who screened it at consciousness-raising events. What is important to remember is that the notion that "gay is good" did not start on made-for-TV movies, it came from within the gay movement. TV didn't catch on until we did, and films like *Home Movie* were part of the process. The benefits of *Home Movie* were practical as well as spiritual for some. One of the four camera operators on this film cut her teeth on several other lesbian/feminist films after *Home Movie*, honing her craft at the grassroots level before making a breakthrough film of her own: Donna Deitch.

We tend to think of major advances in the representation of gays in terms of commercial productions, pointing to films like *Making Love* or *Torch Song Trilogy* (1988) as signs of progress. Perhaps they are, but as Vito Russo points out in his book, "taking the game away from Hollywood" is what really has given lesbians and gays the chance to represent themselves and to be represented without distortion or condescension.

The 1980s have seen an explosion of independently produced films by and about lesbians and gays. Films like *Novembermoon* (1984), *Desert Hearts* (1985) and *Parting Glances* (1986) utilize conventional formats to reveal the depth of gay experience,



A scene from *Some of My Best Friends Are...*

while movies such as *Taxi zum Klo* (1981), *Buddies* (1985), *Prick Up Your Ears* (1987), *Law of Desire* (1987), and *The Virgin Machine* (1988) unabashedly depict lesbian and gay sexuality.

From low-budget efforts like *Born in Flames* (1983), *Domestic Bliss* (1984), *Male Noche* (1986), *Three Bewildered People in the Night* (1987) and *Looking for Langston* (1989) to well-funded productions like *Another Country* (1984) and *Maurice* (1987), to mention only a few, gay life is

now, if not a staple of contemporary film, at least a legitimate subject for serious review.

As the 13th San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival closes this weekend, there is much cause for celebration, but I remain wary. Twenty years ago there was no festival—here or anywhere else. However, several troublesome realities are readily apparent as we head into the 1990s, foremost among these the dearth of new lesbian features. Ulrike Ottinger's

Johanna D'arc of Mongolia (1989) is a long way from *The Killing of Sister George*, but the fact that *Johanna* is the only major lesbian feature screening this year indicates that new and more democratic funding sources need to be developed. For those with an eye to the future, the festival's Saturday afternoon panel "Lesbian/Gay Media in the '90s" will discuss the challenges facing lesbian and gay film and videomakers. For those looking to the past for hopeful signs, there are many to be found. ▼



TWO NICE GIRLS In San Francisco

TWO NICE GIRLS will be appearing at the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Celebration, on The Main Stage (City Hall) 1:30 pm, Sunday, June 25.

Also at Great American Music Hall Tuesday, June 27

"Two Nice Girls" debut LP, Cassette, CD on Rough Trade Records



Let's Dance

The Bay Area Reporter will present "Let's Dance at the Beach" following the Gay Day Parade, Sunday, from 4 p.m.-midnight. The tea dance will be held at the Giftcenter Pavilion at 8th and Brannan streets. Advance tickets at \$12 are available at all Headlines stores. Tickets at the door will be \$15. Magda (above) and the Del Rubio Triplets will perform. All proceeds will benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund.

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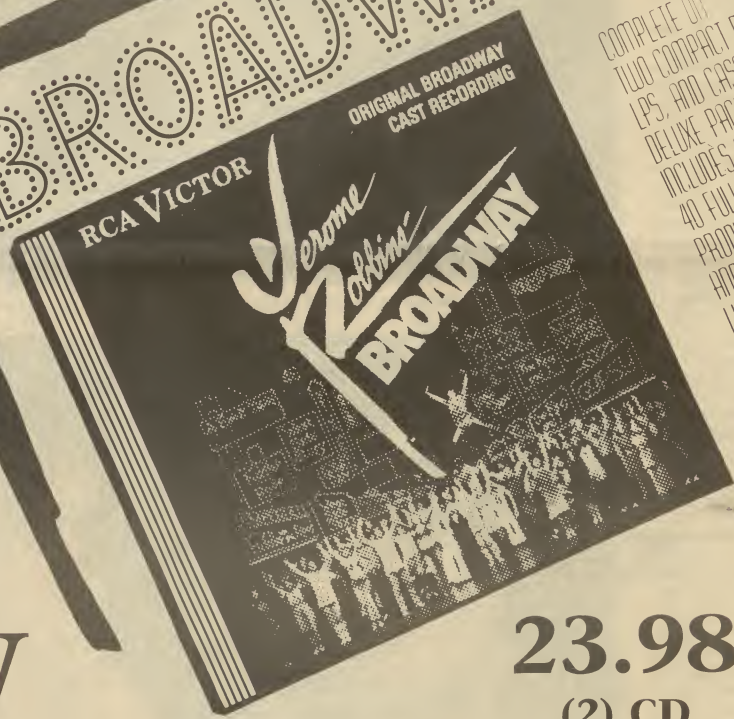
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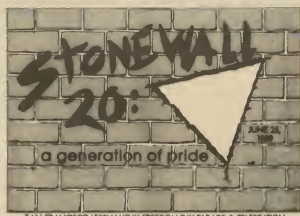


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Entertainment Great Rio Dante Dead at 63

by Allen White

Rio Dante, who with Charles Pierce, wrote entertainment history in San Francisco, died June 2 in his San Francisco home. He was 63. For the past several years Dante, whose real name is Carol John Watson, had worked for Time-Life Books.

What he will be remembered for is the many years when Charles Pierce and Rio Dante performed together in an act that may never be equalled for creativity and sensitivity for the gay community.

This week Charles Pierce remembered their life together.

"We were partners from 1956, starting at the Echo Club in Miami Beach. We traveled to Colorado and did a summer at the Glory Hole in Central City, and then we went to Hollywood in the fall of 1962," he said.

"In April 1963 we both drove in separate cars to San Francisco and auditioned at the Gilded Cage on a Monday afternoon and opened Tuesday night," Pierce said.

That was the beginning of six years of incredible nightly shows at the Gilded Cage on Ellis Street. Located just a few doors from Powell Street, the Cage was a rather small gay bar with a large back room. During the week the shows would be presented on a small stage surrounded by crowded tables.

On weekends the back room of the Gilded Cage was part cruising bar and part showroom. These shows became the focal point for San Francisco's gay community. As the shows gained in popularity, they also began attracting a straight crowd.

"We did break a lot of ground as far as opening clubs there. At the Gilded Cage there was always a lot of pantomime and then always live material at the end with Rio at the piano. He accompanied me for the live material!"

"Rio never worked in drag. He always wore black pants and a black turtleneck sweater," he said. "He added a funny hat or something and he was in full face but he never ever was in full drag."

The reason, he said, was "because he had to take that off and play the piano for me so he would always say, 'I can't be in drag and then play the piano, it's too much to do.'"

Rio Dante created a character that was simply perfect for the outrageous Charles Pierce. The club would seemingly burst with theatrical magic. Each night they added new material and recreated old material. Many in the crowd would bring their friends to see their favorite numbers performed.

Kirk Frederick worked with Rio Dante and Charles Pierce for several years.

"How could anyone ever forget Rio as the skating nun," he said.

It was, in fact, just one of the many characters the two performers created.

"Charles and Rio also created the living dolls," Frederick remembers.



Igor, played by Rio Dante, is about to lose his brain in *The Diary of Anne Frankenstein*, 1961.



From *The Gilded Cage Show* in 1968. Lady Rhonda Lay, played by Rio, was not happy being called "Conehead" by the Queen.

During the live segment Rio Dante would sit at the upright piano and create a musical background for Charles Pierce to create Bette Davis, Mae West or other wonderful personalities. The show would always end with Charles Pierce swinging on a swing high over the audience singing "San Francisco."

The living dolls were puppets with the heads being either one of the entertainers.



Rio stars as Elaine May in an interview called "The Life Story of God" from *The Gilded Cage Show* in 1963.



Rio plays Dracula in *Bats, Blood and Bankhead*.

Their engagement at the Gilded Cage ended on June 1, 1969. Possibly there is some irony in the fact that Rio Dante died June 2, 1989, almost 20 years later to the day.

Kirk Frederick remembers that after the Gilded Cage closed, they all went to Los Angeles where Charles Pierce and Rio Dante played at Ciro's. The engagement was to be for six weeks but lasted for six months. When they closed, the historic nightclub known as Ciro's closed its doors for good. It has now been reopened and is known as the Comedy Club.

Frederick remembers the last time the two performed together.

"It was the Centennial weekend," he said, "and Les Natale had brought Rio and Charles together to perform on the Fourth of July in 1976 at Bimbo's. That was the last time they would ever perform together."

After the act broke up, Charles Pierce went to New York. Rio Dante remained in San Francisco and went to work for Time-Life Books. Rio Dante and Pierce remained close friends.

"Wherever I went, people would remember the Gilded Cage, and they sure did. They would come up to me all the time and say what ever happened to Rio Dante. I would always say well, he's dead and living in San Francisco and Rio would love that," Pierce said.

The last time Charles Pierce appeared in San Francisco was last summer at the Fairmont Hotel. Each evening as he concluded his act he would take pictures of the audience with a flash camera. This week Charles Pierce took a look at some of last year's pictures. Sitting in the front row was one of his staunchest supporters, Rio Dante.

Carol John Watson, the man known as Rio Dante, requested no services after he died, and his ashes will be scattered at sea by the Neptune Society.

Special thanks to Charles Pierce for providing these pictures of Rio Dante.

Behind the Scene Struggle Over Bartel's Latest



Arnetia Walker, Ed Begley Jr. and Rebecca Schaeffer in Paul Bartel's *Scenes from the Class Struggle in Beverly Hills*.

by David Lambie

I only clean the house when I'm expecting company. As luck would have it, Paul Bartel rang my bell just as I was vacuuming the living room. Running to the door in my skimpy houseboy shorts I had a moment's apprehension: how would the maker of such high-brow cinema as *Eating Raoul*, *Naught Nurse* and now *Scenes from the Class Struggle in Beverly Hills* feel sitting next to my "picture wall" of 800 Polaroid snapshots of past, present and would-be boyfriends juxtaposed with assorted anonymous penises. I needn't have worried.

As I was running for the tape recorder and the ice tea, Bartel settled comfortably into my TV chair and started telling the publicist in off-the-record tones about how difficult distributor Cinecom had been with *Scenes*.

Eavesdropping from the kitchen it was all a little vague; the head of the company had hated some of the cutaways to trees in the backyard of the very real Hollywood mansion where the film had been shot. No matter. The deal had been cut, and now it was starting to look like they might have a small hit on their hands.

Bartel explains that he had been shooting *Scenes from the Class Struggle in Beverly Hills* in his head and on paper for almost 10 years.

"The original idea for the movie was a story about wealthy kids living in their parents' guest houses and pool houses and mansions in Beverly Hills and organizing bank robberies to support the Black Panthers." About five years ago the Black Panthers dropped out to be replaced by the story of "two rich women who are friends, one of whom has an adolescent boy whose sexual initiation she arranges with her best friend, a sort of incest by proxy story."

Actually, Bartel is quick to admit that the story had become as tangled and unappetizing as a plate of cold spaghetti. It was at this point that he met screenwriter Bruce Wagner and the show was on the road. The story that finally made it to the screen

makes the title even more ironic than originally intended: there being, of course, no class struggle in Beverly Hills.

Clare (Jacqueline Bisset) is planning a wake for her late husband Sidney (a ghostly cameo by Paul Mazursky) who died from auto strangulation—trying to prolong orgasm—a trick he picked up from his houseboy, Frank (Ray Sharkey).

Meanwhile, Clare's best friend Lisabeth (Mary Woronov or Mary Bland in *Eating Raoul*) is fumigating her house to remove the last smell of her philandering ex-husband, Howard (Wallace Shawn once again cast against type as a Lothario). Frank placed a bet with Lisabeth's houseboy Juan (Robert Beltran or the Raoul who is eaten in *Eating Raoul*). The bet: which one of the men can seduce their respective bosses. If Juan wins he gets \$5,000 to pay off a gambling debt; if Frank wins, he gets a one-night stand with Juan.

Meanwhile, Lisabeth's lecherous playwright brother, Peter (Ed

Begley, Jr.), brings his latest wife home to meet the folks: To-bel, a beautiful black erotic film star. Two lovesick teenagers round out the cast: Willie (Barret Oliver), slowly dying of cancer and pining for sex, and Kelly, a bored young girl who describes her father's wake as "the thing."

Bartel is frankly surprised that the film has emerged "as coherent as it is, because several important themes were dropped in the editing." One of the excised subplots sounds like it was stolen from the teen suicide film *Heathers* (a black comedy Bartel very much admires).

"The young boy (Willie) is terribly in love with the young girl from next door (Kelly). When he realizes that she is having an affair with Frank, the houseboy, Willie attempts suicide. And there's a whole sequence where he tries to hang himself, and Rosa (Edith Diaz), the strange Aztec maid, comes in and finds him and cuts him down, and then

(Continued on next page)

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Bartel

(Continued from previous page)

we next discover them in bed together."

Bartel says Willie's suicide had to be cut from the final film because it added a draggy black note to what was becoming an engaging and fast-paced bedroom farce.

Bartel is on the whole very pleased with the final film, which he sees as a kind of American-style homage to the films of Jean Renoir (*Rules of the Game*) and Luis Bunuel (the L.B. in the movie's dedication). His only regret is how the gay subplot, the bet between Frank and Juan, plays in the final cut.

"While I like very much that Juan, who is not gay, has a gay experience and is not the worse for it afterward and is still very friendly with Frank who imposes on him, I regret a little bit the whole notion of imposition. It was necessary in order for the plot to function, and I think that I made it work pretty well. But, just in the abstract, I regret the whole idea of one person almost forcing somebody to something that he wasn't normally inclined to do."

Bartel is especially proud of how he shot the climactic bedroom scene where Frank has his way with Juan. Noting that he doesn't like to over direct, Bartel explains that he did give one suggestion to Robert Beltran to help the very masculine appearing Latin actor play Juan's acceptance of Frank's sexual overtures.

"Robert was playing the scene with too much apprehension, and



Writer-director Paul Bartel.

I had to go in several times and say, 'No, you really aren't worried about this, and you choose to take this as a lark.' Juan's whole attitude is summed up in his line: 'Boy, you never know what life has in store. If you live long enough, you're going to do everything.'"

Bartel says that while his American distributor, Cinecom, had no problem with the gay sex scene, getting money from the Rank Organization in England was a much more dicey matter. The problem stemmed from the official position of England's ruling Conservative Party against books, films and other media that

promote acceptance of homosexuality as an alternative lifestyle.

"It is officially uncool to be gay in England. And Rank, which is an old and conservative organization, did not want to appear in the position of advocating homosexuality."

The Rank Organization insisted that Bartel shoot an alternate bet that did not involve sex between Frank and Juan. Bartel says he resisted the idea until it became clear that he had to film the alternate bet scene in order to get the money to make the picture.

"The alternate bet turned out

to be about cutting off a finger. I thought it would be interesting to see if they would prefer this kind of violence to sex." Ironically, the Rank people withdrew their objections to the gay sex scene when they observed how discreetly it had been shot. So the film will open in England just exactly as it did at the Castro Theatre.

Bartel, who has had his trouble being taken seriously by mainstream Hollywood people—and more importantly, big Hollywood money—doesn't see that gay content is a barrier to getting a film made in the movie capital.

"I don't think that Hollywood has anything against gay subjects and gay themes, except that when they have been tried, in the last few years, they haven't made money. And that's the one unforgivable thing. . . . They would do anything if it made money! They would make porno films if they thought they could gross enough."

Bartel adds that one reason he still hasn't shot a sequel to his cult classic, *Eating Raoul*, is that "The grosses of the original film weren't high enough to warrant" a Hollywood-sized ad campaign. To Hollywood moguls, "any film that grosses under \$10 million doesn't exist."

To Bartel even riskier than the gay sex in *Scenes from the Class Struggle in Beverly Hills* was a scene he feared some audiences might take as racist. It is the scene in the garden where all the guests have learned who has been sleeping with whom the night before. Peter, the white playwright, is dismayed by the infidelity of his black wife, To-bel, while, of course, ignoring his own bed-hopping habits. Bartel

recalls the line of Peter's that gave him the most apprehension. "The character, who has arrived for the weekend married to the incredibly beautiful and sexy black woman, suddenly says to her, 'You cheap black whore. The woman I really love is a real woman and she likes to wash, too, with soap, everywhere.'"

If he had to film it again, Bartel says he would interrupt that line a little earlier with her comeback.

"However, in the overall scheme of the movie, the black character is so strong and so independent and knows what she wants and gets what she wants, I think it balances out in the end. She is probably the most sympathetic of all the characters."

Bartel explains that he wants to shock without offending.

"I don't want to hurt the feelings of anybody, and I don't want any black people in the audience to suddenly be embarrassed or made to feel uncomfortable. On the other hand, I do want to shock the audience. I want the revelation of this underlying attitude to come on strong because it seems to me very true that an awful lot of people, especially people of my generation, who grew up in the '40s and '50s and '60s, have this lurking beneath the surface of their consciousness."

In the end, Bartel hopes filmmakers take *Scenes* for the fantasy that it mostly is: "The whole notion of the ghost of the husband who is trying to persuade his wife to resume their relationship and ultimately join him in hell where's he's picked out a house exactly like the one that she's living in."

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Jason Rush and Lee Whitlock star in *Two of Us* (Saturday, June 24, 2:30 p.m., Roxie)

Teen Dramas at Video Festival

The video festival double bill of *Two of Us* and *The Truth About Alex* (Saturday, June 24, 2:30 p.m., Roxie) offers an interesting contrast between British and American sensibilities.

Each of these made-for-television dramas tells a story of a teenager coming to terms with being gay. The American-made *Truth About Alex* focuses on Alex's heterosexual best friend (played by Scott Baio), and his attempts to overcome his own prejudice.

Two of Us, made in England in

1986, was the subject of much controversy and was ultimately televised at a late hour with a quick kiss and a shirtless scene both removed. The Lesbian/Gay Film Festival has managed to get an unabridged copy of this story of two working class teenage friends who are both coming to terms with gay feelings, and who "cross the fine line between friendship and sex."

In spite of Thatcherite conservatism it's interesting to see that the more daring story comes from the other side of the Atlantic.

—Henry Mach

English Videos Offer Worthwhile Info and Fun

'Out on Four' at Video Festival



The advertising agency Saatchi & Saatchi was commissioned to create a mock TV commercial to "promote homosexuality." This can be seen as part of the *Out on Four* program *After Stonewall* (Sunday, June 25, 5 p.m., Roxie).

by Henry Mach

Parts of the *Out on Four* videos playing at the Roxie this weekend are so intriguing and compelling they'll prompt thoughtful consideration and lively discussions. Other parts are just so much fun that you'll wonder how something this entertaining got labeled a "British documentary."

Calling this infotainment, that odd hybrid of information and entertainment that proliferates on American television today, would be more to the point. This approach has gotten a bad rap recently. Not quite news, these shows specialize in think pieces designed for a video generation.

Seeing issues of concern to gays and lesbians translated into an infotainment format is a delight. Add to that a sharp sense of humor, gender balance and a high level of professional craft and you have a show unlike anything we've seen in America.

Last February, *Out on Tuesday* premiered on England's Channel 4. This eight-part series immediately challenged Britain's controversial Section 28 of the Local Government Act (which

prohibits public funds from "promoting homosexuality"), by commissioning the Saatchi & Saatchi advertising agency to create a commercial that would urge people to try homosexuality.

The result is a tasteful TV spot in which a woman beams at the camera and announces that she's found solutions to all her sexual woes. As the camera pulls back to reveal another attractive woman beside her, the spokesmodel concludes with, "...and I don't have to worry about getting pregnant anymore. And neither does she."

What's really demonstrated by this exercise is the absurdity of "selling" a sexual orientation.

Other parts of *Out on Four* manage to be earnestly British and informative: the 1977 blasphemy trial against London's *Gay News*; the brave people in South Africa trying to combine gay liberation with the fight against apartheid; efforts by gay and lesbian couples to adopt children or serve as foster parents.

We're offered worthwhile information. The report on immigration problems faced by gay

couples in the British Empire made me wonder whether American immigration laws include the phrase "compassionate and humanitarian grounds," and whether someone could get George ("kinder and gentler") Bush to watch this particular sequence.

Out on Four never strays too far from its mission to balance entertainment and relevance. Are today's lesbians putting the sex back in sexual politics? Is there a colonial basis for racism in gay male sexuality? These questions remain unresolved, but having them asked and hearing the opinions expressed on screen is quite a leap forward.

Pop culture seems too much fun to take seriously, and *Out on Four* knows when to balance froth with weightiness. Yes, there are sober and serious issues involved with gay portrayals in movies or with record companies targeting gay markets, but we're also informed—in true *Entertainment Tonight* fashion—that *Dynasty*'s Steven Carrington had a 75 percent mortality rate among his male lovers.

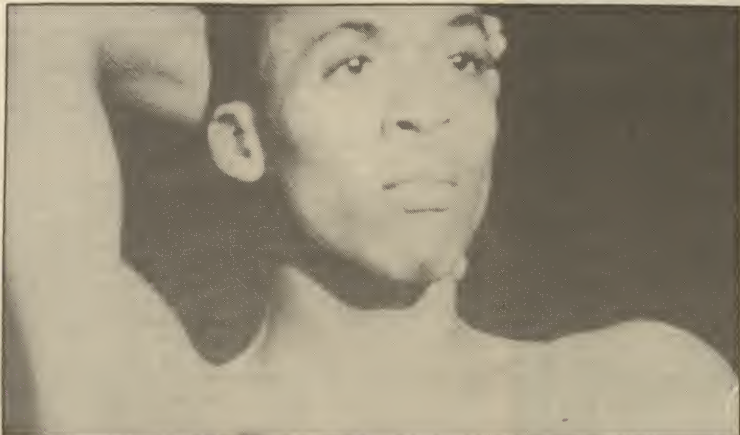
When I wrote about ABCTV's *HeartBeat* in these pages a few months ago, I focused on right-wing protests against the lesbian character on that series. But *Out on Four* gets right to the meat of the matter by asking the question: "Just how far could a girl go?" The answer, from a production insider, is that we are a long way from seeing a same-sex kiss on American TV.

Disco's Revenge (Saturday, June 24, 11 p.m., Roxie) is sure to have the widest appeal of any of the *Out on Four* offerings. This episode traces the gay music market from disco, through high-energy, to today's Bronski Beat, and on to tomorrow's "voguing," where we're informed, "Young gay Latinos and blacks have that vivacious energy young gays used to have."

Former disco bunnies will be interested in seeing Ray Caviano, disco's wunderkind record producer, now grown older. San Franciscans will appreciate that this sequence is dedicated to the memory of Sylvester.

This night's program also in-

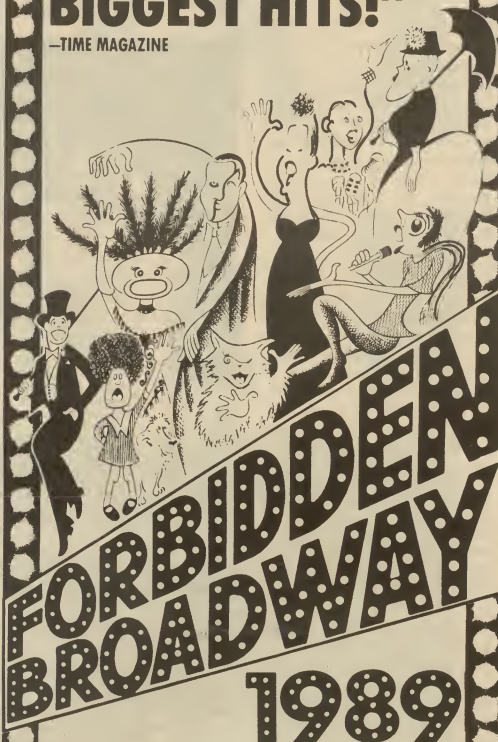
(Continued on page 79)



Disco's Revenge (Saturday, June 24, 11 p.m., Roxie) part of the *Out on Four* series from England, features a look at "Voguing," a dance trend popular with young black and Latin gays, in which the dancer mimics poses of high fashion models.

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Catching Up with Current Events

One of the most frequent criticism leveled at the operatic art form is that it rarely has anything to do with the world we live in. For the generation that grew up watching MTV and rock concerts (in which fast action, lasers, strobes and fog machines dominate the visuals) a traditional opera production can seem frighteningly constipated.

To make matters worse, the politics of Cinderella's love life and Don Jose's fatal attraction to a gypsy slut (not to mention the burning question of who gets to marry some rich widow in order to protect the financial health of Petrovania) hold pathetically little relevance to the issues confronting people in a world dominated by drugs, disease and terrorism.

Putting it simply: If new audiences are to be attracted to opera, they must be given a message that interests them. And that message must be delivered with music to which they can relate.

"The primary music of America nowadays is rock 'n' roll. Not everyone listens to it, but everyone hears it (even if you go into a restaurant, what's playing on Muzak is rock 'n' roll). If you're going to work in the land that created music theater for the people who live there, you either have to speak their language or else you'll fail to connect with them," explains Ben Krywosz, Opera America's first project director for the *Opera into the Eighties and Beyond* program.



San Francisco Opera's production of Philip Glass' *Satyagraha*.

"Curiously enough, the operatic establishment does not speak the language that most people in America do. As a result, there's something which is not quite connecting people on a core level. And that something has a lot to do with having a different cultural point of view."

Two recent productions crossed the threshold into contemporary culture with stunning suc-

cess. Each dealt with issues that concern contemporary society; each had a sound that could be embraced by contemporary society. Most importantly, each attracted young audiences from today's society.

Searching for a Vaccine

While in Philadelphia, I attended a performance of *Power Failure* at the American Music

Theatre Festival. This new "electronic thriller" with music by Paul Dresher and libretto by Rinde Eckert concerns a corporate millionaire's efforts to find a remedy for his family's strangely fatal blood disease. When, after 20 years of research, a miraculous genetic compound capable of curing all disease is developed, the audience learns that Charles (the millionaire CEO) has no intentions of releasing the cure to the world. Instead, he plans to use it on himself and ransom it off to those similarly afflicted wealthy people (mostly white, corporate males) who can afford it.

Just as he begins to receive the curative treatment, a power failure occurs during which the inner thoughts of the people trapped in the pharmaceutical laboratory—Charles; his nurse, Judith; Ruth Lehmann, the scientist; and a security guard with a murky past, Merle Townsend—become known to the audience.

Although it was too heavily amplified for my tastes, I found Dresher's score (which uses a variety of keyboards and tape processors) most appealing. Unlike many other composers, Dresher gives firm support to the dramatic situation and allows each character to develop fully in musical theater terms.

Tenor John Duykers gave a wonderfully selfish and hedonistic performance as the crippled CEO of Delta Chemical while, as the security guard, Rinde Eckert offered audiences a deliciously slimy example of blue-collar revenge in the corporate environment. Stephanie Friedman (Ruth) and Sara Ganz (Judith) lent strong support as the two women in Charles' life. Superbly directed by Tom O'Horgan and stunningly designed by Michael Olich, *Power Failure* is a work that should be seen by anyone whose life has been touched by the insidious politics behind funding AIDS research.

I'm sure that local fans of Rinde Eckert and Paul Dresher will be present en masse when this production is staged in Berkeley toward the end of the year. If you're the slightest bit interested in new music theatre—or finding a cure for AIDS—make sure you are, too.

Birth of a Movement

Now that Terry McEwen is gone from the San Francisco Opera, it's possible for the company to begin exploring important works by contemporary composers. Several weeks ago Philip Glass' music was welcomed into the San Francisco Opera's repertoire with a long-overdue production of *Satyagraha*. Considering the current events before us—massive student demonstrations in Beijing and the 20th anniversary of the Stonewall Revolution—Lotfi Mansouri's timing as an impresario proved to be impeccable.

Satyagraha is a powerful piece of ritual theatre, which describes, in music, dance and mime, the birth of the passive-resistance movement under its leader, Mohandas Gandhi. Having seen several performances of David Pountney's production (as staged by Harry Silverstein) in Chicago and Seattle, I still find *Satyagraha* to be an intensely moving piece of music theatre.

Using the sets and costumes from the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Silverstein staged the opera in San Francisco (as in Seattle) with the help of choreographer Clare West. Conductor Bruce Ferden (who led the world premiere as well as the Seattle production of *Satyagraha*) made an impressive San Francisco Opera debut on the podium.

As an opera, *Satyagraha* is the kind of show whose musical and dramatic success rests on the work of a strong choral ensemble. Under Ian Robertson's direction, the San Francisco Opera Chorus rose to the occasion with tremendous skill and professionalism while Douglas Perry repeated his touching portrayal of Gandhi and Claudia Cummings recreated her characterization of Mrs. Schlessen. Newcomers to the production included Ann Panagoulas as Mrs. Naidoo, Catherine Keen as Kasturbai, Victor Ledbetter as Mr. Kallenbach, Philip Skinner as Parsi Rustomji and Emily Manhart as Mrs. Alexander.

Unlike many other operas, *Satyagraha* is a work that can be placed in an extraordinary social context. However, in order to draw new audiences to opera (Glass attracts a very different crowd from the traditional Verdi, Wagner and Puccini enthusiasts), you have to learn how to speak their language and reach out to them through their media.

I find it absolutely appalling that, in a city in which even the mayor claims political consciousness as a top priority, little if any advertising for Glass' opera appeared in the Bay Area's alternative media—keenly targeted outlets that would have reached the people most interested in receiving the message of *Satyagraha*.

As a result, although the opening night performance was heavily attended (any Philip Glass event tends to draw out the trendies in the Bay Area), there were plenty of tickets waiting to be sold for subsequent performances of Glass' opera. To market *Satyagraha* to San Franciscans the same way one would attempt to sell the traditional repertoire to the mainstream of operatic subscribers was and is a tragic mistake. Let's hope this kind of mistake is not repeated with future productions of contemporary works by the San Francisco Opera. ▼

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'Wonderland' to Close Film Festival



Wonderland, a story of friendship and adventure from the creator of *Letter to Brezhnev*, will be shown Saturday, 9 p.m., at the Castro Theatre.

The closing night feature of this year's San Francisco International Lesbian/Gay Film Festival is *Wonderland*, a mad concoction of suspense thriller and coming of age comedy from England.

Directed by Philip Saville who was responsible for the comedy

Letter to Brezhnev, this movie includes a gangland murder, a gay opera diva, lip-synching to Marilyn Monroe hits, skinny dipping with a dolphin, and two cute guys from Liverpool trying to figure out the gay world. ▼

—Henry Mach

English Video

(Continued from page 77)

cludes *Out on Four's* look at immigration issues for gay couples and offers examples of gay and lesbian portrayals on television.

Crimes of Passion (Friday, June 23, 9:45 p.m., Roxie) begins with interviews of some talented women who are creating lesbian detective fiction. We find out that the original title of Mary Wings' *She Came in a Flash*, was *She Came Too Often*. The offended feminists at Ms. Wings' publishing house had proposed, *She Came to California*.

This night's program also includes such diverse matters as gay foster parents, gays in South Africa, and the search for Prince (or Princess) Charming, as well as a poetic and ironic scene about the life and art of gay painter Si-meon Solomon.

After Stonewall (Sunday, June 25, 5 p.m., Roxie) looks at the progress and defeats of the gay movement in the 20 years since the Stonewall rebellion. This evening's program includes questions of racism, lesbian sexuality and safe-sex. There's also an extensive look at actors who've portrayed gay and lesbian characters on screen, with thoughtful interviews of Helen Shaver (*Desert Hearts*), Gordon Warnecke (*My Beautiful Laundrette*), and the irrepressible Harvey Fierstein who, when asked if there's a heterosexual role he'd like to play, manages to come up with Eleanore of Aquitaine. ▼

My one complaint is that some of the most refreshing material in this year's film festival has been shunted to the tail end of the schedule, conflicting with many other community events.

There's some talk that the *Out on Four* material seen at the festival (which is from the British series *Out on Tuesday*) may end up on PBS. But the recent history of conservative influence on American public broadcasting does not make me optimistic about that prospect. Let's hope Frameline, or someone, can give our community another chance to see this exciting British series.

Simply seeing that someone is doing work on this level of quality, made for a gay and lesbian audience, specifically addressing the real questions that make up our lives, could do a lot to energize us.

★ ★ ★

Last week we found out that thanks to Sen. Jesse Helms' complaints about National Endowment for the Arts money going to "promote homosexuality," San Franciscans will not be seeing the Robert Mapplethorpe photography show this year. People in Stamford, Conn., and Washington, D.C., will see these unique (and often homoerotic) works, but not us.

If PBS doesn't show the complete British Channel 4 series, *Out on Tuesday*, perhaps someone in Washington needs to be reminded that our community also pays taxes. ▼

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MOVIES

Star Trek V: Summer's Bomb



The crew of the Starship Enterprise in their worst film yet.

by Ron Larsen

Even the most loyal of Trekkies are going to find *Star Trek V: The Final Frontier* more of a trudge than a trek, for this sluggish installment of the space opera is mired in meta-physical claptrap and pseudo-philosophical gobbledygook. As it turns out, the new but improved USS Enterprise featured in this film serves as a metaphor for the entire movie—it doesn't work very well.

The most amazing thing about *Star Trek V* is that its \$32 million budget is nowhere to be seen on the screen: the high-tech hardware is plastic looking, the visuals and special effects are lackluster, and the would-be action sequences are as ineptly directed as they are numbingly dull.

This fifth big-screen episode of the *Star Trek* saga is by far the most turgid and disappointing of the lot, a shipwrecked movie with little to recommend it other than a cast of time-ravaged but pleasantly familiar characters.

Among them are a puffy-faced Captain Kirk (William Shatner, who does double duty as the film's hapless director), the pointy-eared Mr. Spock (Leonard Nimoy, the sharp-tongued Dr. McCoy (DeForest Kelley), the now-rotund ship's engineer, Scotty (James Doohan), and a host of others.

With a disjointed script that insists on abandoning plot development for personality profiles, the movie spends much of its time skipping from one subsidiary character to the next, so that each one gets to do his or her own thing. The resultant movie comes off more like a comedy review than an high-action adventure, except that many of the laughs are unintentional.

The half-baked plot of *The Final Frontier* revolves around a renegade Vulcan named Sybok, who turns out to be none other than Spock's long-lost half brother. As played by the hopelessly miscast Laurence Luckinbill, Sybok is a touchingly messiah/prophet who goes around healing people by urging them to confront their innermost feelings.

"Face your secret pain," pleads the space-age guru, "and gain strength and freedom through sharing."

As a ploy to get Kirk's attention, Sybok stages an uprising on Nimbus III, the Neutral Zone's so-called "Planet of Galactic

Peace," and takes three of the planet's high-ranking dignitaries hostage. Then, after commandeering the Enterprise, he forces the ship's captive crew to embark on a perilous journey through the Great Barrier, at the center of the galaxy, beyond which lies the mythical planet of Sha Ka Ri—the "place from which creation sprang"—better known as Eden.

Sybok's mission is a quest for ultimate knowledge, and he wants to go straight to the source.

"God waits for us on the other side!" he cries.

But to reach Eden, Sybok must first get the Enterprise through the dangerous and unexplored Great Barrier, which represents humankind's "ultimate fear of the unknown."

As if that weren't enough, the Enterprise is being stalked by a crazed crew of killer Klingons on a battleship called the Bird of Prey.

If you think all this sounds pretty exciting, think again. While the passage through the Great Barrier should have been one of the film's most thrilling and spectacular action sequences, it is rendered silly and anticlimactic by the shoddy special effects, which would have us believe that the Great Barrier is nothing more than a large multi-colored mass of swirling cloud formations and electrical storms, accompanied by the

thunderous music of composer Jerry Goldsmith. Getting through this light show turns out to be a piece of cake... and far less exciting than a whirl on a merry-go-round.

Alas, as envisioned in this movie, the bearded old Trickster God/Alien Being who rules Eden turns out to be an even greater disappointment than the Great Barrier—and just as easily overcome. Here, the special effects fizzle out completely, perhaps because the film was already over budget at this point.

After a confused and confusing finale of sorts, during which the plot self-destructs and no one seems to know what's happening or what it all means, there's nothing left for Captain Kirk and friends to do but return to their cozy campfire at Yosemite National Park, where the picture began, for yet another chorus of "Row, row, row your boat... Life is but a dream."

Indeed, this whole misdirected picture is like one long, incoherent dream from which one is grateful to awake. Bury it somewhere in your list of "can miss" summer sequels, for this tired retread misses the mark by light-years when it comes to genuine entertainment and adventure. ▼

★ 1/2
Star Trek V: The Final Frontier
The Alhambra, Empire and Century
Plaza 8

Bay Area Women's Philharmonic Announces 1989-90 Season

The Bay Area Women's Philharmonic will present 12 premieres, including commissioned works by noted New York composer Katherine Hoover and Australian composer Anne Boyd in its 1989-90 season. Continuing its tradition of innovative programming that has won it five awards in the past six years from ASCAP and the American Symphony Orchestra League for "adventuresome programming," the Women's Philharmonic's ninth season includes new works by outstanding contemporary composers as well as rediscovered historical masterworks.

The season begins Saturday, Oct. 21, featuring the U.S. premiere of noted Australian composer Peggy Glanville-Hicks' *Concerto Romanico*, performed

by San Francisco Symphony principal violist Geraldine Walther.

Also included in the program is the U.S. premiere of *The Wreckers Overture* to the opera of that name by English composer Dame Ethel Smythe, the local premiere of Seattle composer Diane Thome's *The Golden Messengers*, and Paul Hindemith's *Symphonic Metamorphosis*.

Music Director JoAnn Falletta, whose contract has been extended through the 1991-92 season, will conduct all subscription concerts. Artistic Director Nan Washburn continues her popular "Concert Conversations" at 7 p.m. at the concert hall prior to each performance, with visiting composers as guests. ▼

The Gay Sex Press: Exploding Eroticism

by Steve Dambach
Dedicated to the work of Fred Halsted

As I step into a small circle of gay male publishers, I'm looking for some indication of the community's attitude on its sex press. But we don't talk about those pages under the mattress much any more. Last year's historic exhibit of artifacts from the gay community displayed in New York's City Hall skipped sex, and now that the *Examiner* (which sleeps on Sunday with another paper that gleefully prints anything negative about our sex lives) is looking at us the same way, I think it is time to defend ourselves. So it is as I prepare my magazine about contemporary sexuality, *Newsex*, during this summer of hope that I'm reflecting on the history of our sex press before and after Stonewall.

The gay sex press was born a trying child when available technology and loosened publishing restrictions opened the doors to printing our stories. But, before the first mimeographed sheets of man sex were passed around, gay men already had a tradition of talking about what they did and how it felt with each other. It was a way to turn on other men and learn secret knowledge.

No one knew how popular the concept would be in print until the Athletic Model Guild and Apollo Studios took to selling muscle-art magazines like *Physique Pictorial* in the '60s. With pretty, near nude men in artistic poses covering their cocks, gay men couldn't get enough. They elevated models like Ed Fury to stardom, legitimated the business financially, and waited for more.

When the Supreme Court ruled that nudity in and of itself was not obscene if presented artistically, gay-identified nude magazines became the rage. Bending to match the court's definition and in earnest applying their devotion to the subject, editor/art directors were inspired to start an original form of gay variety magazine.

After *Dark* and San Francisco's *Vector* began publishing the first coffee table magazines with men in the raw, and there was room for more. *Mandate* (originally *Dilettante* until it was bought by a minor straight porn house) and *Blueboy* were instant successes with their slick blend of mega-star interviews, fashion, music, trends and, eventually in color, nude photography that went as far as it could.

As the '70s pumped on, the cock shots took over accompanied by true and fictional sex stories meant to get us excited. Split from *Mandate's* rib in 1977, *Playguy* became one of the first gay magazines exclusively about sex. A year later *Honcho* went even further only to be topped by *Drummer*, and worldwide distribution made getting sex magazines about as convenient as a quart of milk.

Although more than half of the magazines were owned by straight porn houses, like *FirstHand* by Guccione's kid sister, they were our magazines, put together by us. They made us proud. Queenly standards of excellence applied across the

boards. At the height of their success, getting your pictures or stories published was an honor, and a cover shot could make a young sex star's career start. A host of other magazines copied the early formats and got our trust, and the industry in general got raunchier with every year up to AIDS, informing our fantasies and creating a niche for horny artists.

When the sexual truths changed in the '80s, few adjustments got made to our magazines. Now they became more about sex as fantasy than ever, selling what we couldn't have. It was enough to keep us going, though. Unfortunately, as interest in sex declined and Meese towered over the industry, magazines streamlined into look-alike formulas that seemed to spawn featureless clones overnight. The quality of

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ISSUE NO 19

PASSPORT

Crossing Cultures And Borders



the models suffered too as gay men walked away from the business and left it open for a unique test of political correctness. *Honcho* and *Mandate* share a lesbian art director now who is teamed up with a straight woman editor for *All-Man* and *Rods*, and *A-Men* reportedly has a straight woman editor now. While some of these women have a serious interest in cock, from a separatist point of view it makes it like buying pictures from a stranger and beating off to them while your sister looks over your shoulder. In any case, the remnants of the '70s gay sex press are no longer a labor of love, and it shows.

Taking the sex press back into our own hands began with desktop publishing. Software unimaginable in the days of *Physique Pictorial* have made it affordable for the alternative sex press to reclaim and publish special interest magazines like *Newsex*, *Daddy*, *Passport* and *Head*. The granddaddy of them all, *Bear*, broke this new ground in 1987 when it pulled hibernating men out of their caves for a look at the pages of "The Magazine for Bearded and Hairy Men and Their Fans." Publisher Richard Bulger says he created *Bear* because he was tired of hairless

(Continued on page 94)

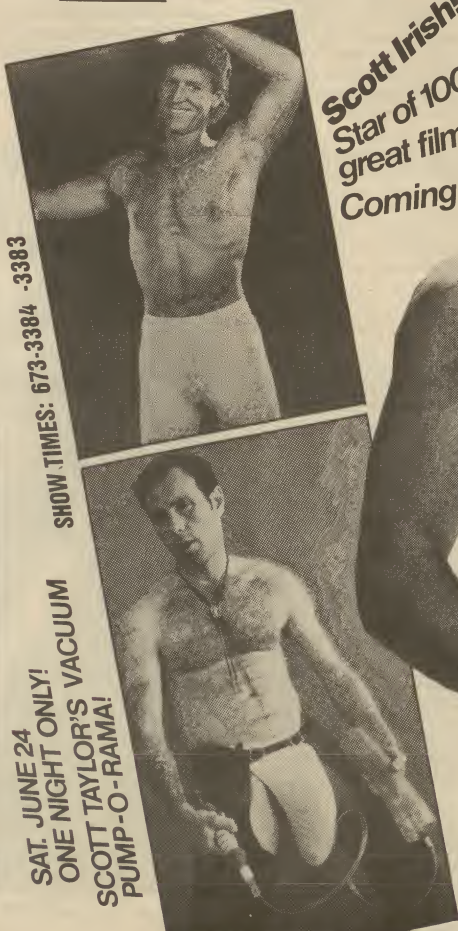
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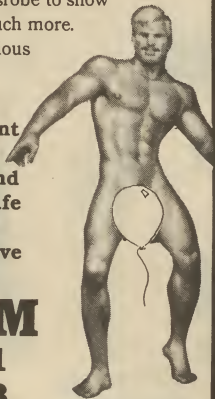
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Mr. Marcus

Leathermen 11
Sisters of P.I. Inc. 8



The leather title holders celebrate their win over the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence Saturday.
(Photo: Marcus)

It was a challenge not to be ignored. Mr. Leather Bear John Caldera dreamed up a 7-inning softball game between San Francisco's leather title holders and the Sisters of P.I. Inc.

Alas, the Sisters, realizing they would be slaughtered, "drafted" six, mind you, six seasoned players from the Pilsner Inn softball team and "elevated" them to sainthood so they could play in the game that was doomed from the start.

It was a sparse crowd that showed up at Lang Field last Saturday afternoon, June 17. The ones who did show up got a show that they'll never forget. Irene "The Mouth" McGowan was supposed to show up to cover the event for that *other* rag, but was nowhere to be found.

The whole thing was a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund and the Gay Men's Chorus. The chorus showed up and opened the ceremonies with a spirited version of "San Francisco" (Garry Garrison was not there!), followed by the National Anthem.

The patrician Jerry Pepper, the Almighty of the GSL shouted "Play ball!" as the teams flipped a coin, the Sisters being first up.

From the beginning it was "no contest" as the leathermen shot ahead at the bottom of the first inning and led through the seven innings of shenanigans while "make-up" breaks were called for (Nina Darst, the current Ms Leather of S.F. and Scooter Jenkins, Ms Leather of S.F. '88 had to split the time with the Sisters whose demeanor and make-up were fading rapidly!)

Every time a home run was scored, the \$2 beer price was lowered to \$1.

Playing for the leather team: Jim Cvitanich, Scooter Jenkins, Nina Darst, James Buhler, Glen Terrio, John Caldera, Ray Perea and David Stoll. There were other players who contributed with a

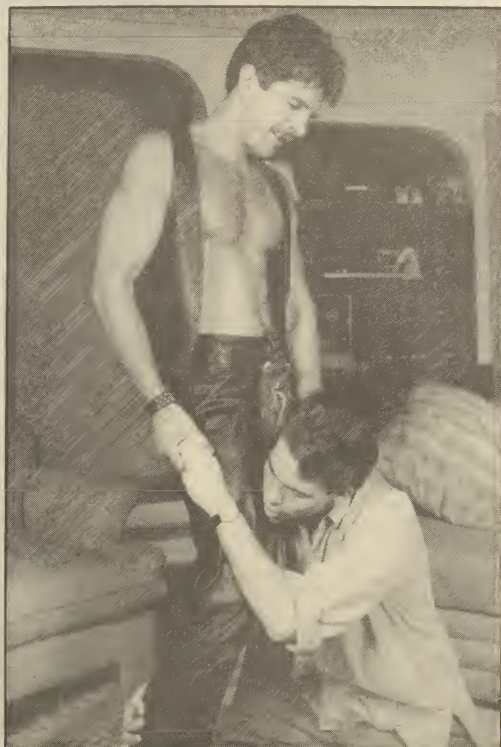
few innings of huffing and puffing.

For the Sisters Inc. it was Sisters Salvation Aimee, Lily White, Julia Sunbeam, Blance de Roote and, of course, Sister Vicious Power Hungry Bitch! The "saints" drafted for the game were Matthew, Ed, Saintess Susan and Mad Max, who certainly had a very, very bad day on the field.

If this reportage sounds biased (heaven forbid!), it's because of

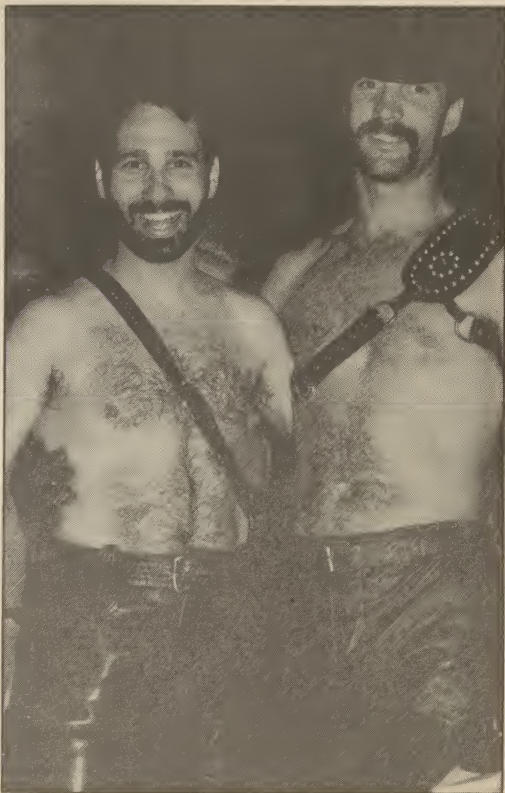
the "draft" of so-called "gifted" ball players who until last Saturday never thought of themselves as "sisters." If this match-up ever occurs again, there will be a stringent set of rules drafted.

In spite of the SPI's underhanded strategy, the leathermen prevailed with a resounding beating of 11-8. There was a beer bust afterward at the S.F. Eagle, but at my deadline, I was unable to get a full report.



Soul Survivor is playing at Theatre Rhino through July 15.

(Photo: Marcus)



Russian River Leather Daddy John Ferrari, left, with 1st runner-up Leonard Ray. (Photo: Marcus)

It's amazing how Mistress Kathy and Audrey Joseph are able to give a complete accounting of the proceeds for benefits they produce less than 24 hours after the events! Would that everyone else would report how much money they drag in! Ha!

At any rate, hordes of leathermen and women converged on the Woods Resort up at the RushRiv last Saturday night to witness the selection of the river's first Leather Daddy and Leather Daddy's Boy contest.

Audrey and Kathy reported within hours of the final moment of fun and frolic that there was a net donation of \$1,045 for the AIDS Emergency Fund and \$80 in cash and lots of canned food for Sonoma County's Food for Thought program. And the winners of the contests (leather and bare chest) re-donated their prizes for the auction to boot!

There were four contestants for

the leather daddy title and nine contestants for the leather daddy's boy. In spite of the bad sound system, emcee Alan Selby managed to get through it all with witty quips and questions for the contestants to put them at ease.

Judges Tony DeBlase, Andy Charles, Jason Ladd, Colt Thomas and a woman whose name I didn't catch had their work cut out, I'll tell ya!

The daddy contestants were John Ferrari, Leonard Ray, Danny Hamann and Ed Bell. All seemed eminently qualified, having reveled in the leather scene for several years each. Cameras flashed and applause ricocheted throughout as each man recited a litany of deep involvement in the leather daddy/lifestyle over the past years.

In the end, the judges picked Oakland's John Ferrari (also Mr. Leather Watering Hole), with Guerneville's hottest leather

man, Leonard Ray as the runner up. There's no doubting John's involvement in leather—his reputation in Northern California is no less sterling than his credentials as a leatherman in Los Angeles. As for Leonard Ray, he's taught a few so-called leathermen where their place is in no uncertain terms and has the distinction of "dumping" one of leatherdom's biggest names as far as leather "stars" go. Great choices both! With all due respect to the other contestants, they all deserve the title with impeccable credentials and served to show younger leathermen what leather is all about.

The nine daddy's boys were no less adept at displaying their lifestyles. Each had a clear conception of the leather lifestyle. In the end, San Francisco's Brett Lancaster, a dazzling blond young man took the first-place position with an equally hot Taylor Poff taking the runner-up spot. The other "boys" were B.J., Tom Barrington, Daniel Kelleher, John Heine, "Puppy," Scott Linn and Wayne Franks.

The bare-chest contest the next afternoon at the South Pool of the Woods brought sun mavens out into the open and there were four contestants for that event. After some spirited dialogue with the emcee, the four contestants (including Mistress Kathy) were singled out and Jeff (no last names, please!) won the weekend at a RushRiv resort (which he re-donated for the auction) and Rod the hot barber man took the runner-up spot!

While all this was going on another record crowd converged at the S.F. Eagle for the annual Father's Day Beer Bust and Auction. Give me 40 lashes for not telling you last week that it was co-chaired by Tony Trevizo and Zack Long! Jason Ladd had a lot to do with it. Former Leather Daddy Tom Rodgers showed his auctioning prowess once again (he's getting better!) with lots of great items.

In the end, some \$7,000 was raised for the Godfather Fund and the AIDS Emergency Fund.

It was unofficially reported that a California lottery winner pledged a donation of \$20,000 for the AEF and \$5,000 for the Godfather Service Fund, but at my deadline the checks had not been presented or cleared any bank.

Good show all around and thanks to all you leathermen and

(Continued on page 84)



Nine Daddy's Boys contestants at the Russian River Sunday. (Photo: Marcus)

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Marcus

(Continued from page 83)

women and everyone else who supported the events.

Again at my deadline I had no details of the GDIs' weekend run and most importantly, who is the new Miss GDI?

Elsewhere and all over this edition of *Bay Area Reporter* there are hundreds of fun events going on in conjunction with Lesbian/Gay Pride weekend.

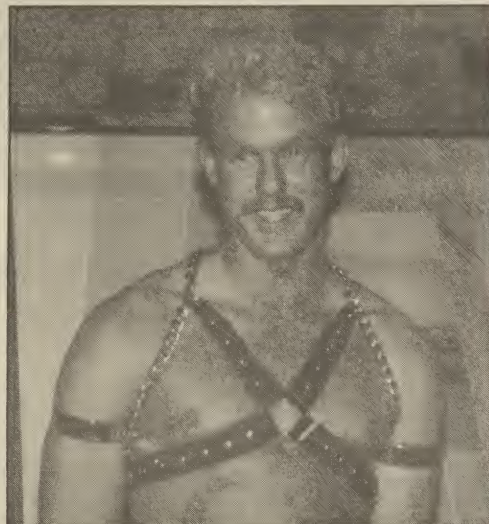
Some of interest to you leather dudes and dudettes: Tonight, Thursday, June 22, Mr. November 1990 will be chosen at the S.F. Eagle. Only one more after this one. The action starts at 2200 so be there, because...

Flash! Be the first to see the video by M.E.N. of the Intl. Mr. Leather contest to be shown tonight and tomorrow night only! The hour-long show again displays M.E.N.'s excellence in video. Don't miss it! Last night, the lovely Leticia (congratulations on your new baby daughter!) launches yet another fine eatery, the Happy Boy Diner at the corner of Market and Sanchez.

Bay Area Reporter cartoonist Frisch opens his cartoon show at the S.F. Eagle tomorrow night too!

Friday night, June 23, from 2000 to 2300, the Phoenix Uniform Club has a beer bust and uniform contest. The tariff is \$8 for all the beer, soft drinks and food you can guzzle. The contest will give prizes to the best military uniform and the best law-enforcement uniform. The judges will be Dick Norton of the S.F. sheriff's department, Leather Daddy Jason Ladd and Tony Irevizo. Don't miss this one. When Jerry, Bobby and Warren get together for a party, it's always fun!

Also on Friday night at midnight, KQED (Channel 9) will air *The Times of Harvey Milk*—if you've never seen this Academy Award-winning documentary, now's your chance to see it free!



Brett Lancaster, Russian River Leather Daddy's Boy I.

(Photo: Marcus)

The Blazing Redheads blast out at the Great American Music Hall on Friday night too. Teamed up with Pete Escoveda and Tuck & Patti, it should be a red-hot sizzling show!

Great news! Anthony Bruno's *Soul Survivor*, currently before the bright lights at Theatre Rhino has been extended to July 15. There will be a special performance on Saturday night, June 24, at 2000. I got this exclusive photo of cast members for this column only! Call 861-5079 for this and any other performance. Remember, only 112 people in at a time, so don't wait! You can get \$1 off your ducat if you bring a donation of canned goods for the Food Bank!

If you find yourself in New York City on Saturday night and hanker for some leather action, the Mr. Northeast Drummer Contest is at Paddles that night at 540 West 21st St. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door.

This Friday and Saturday, June 24 and 25, Scott's up at the RushRiv is having its first anniversary party and Grand Opening as well. What a success story! I don't know how Scott McClellan does it! He's got this great jazz group playing (Bob Lucas) and this hot vocalist (Lois Tanner) and is remodeling the lounge for them as well as just having completed production of Lucas' first album! Busy, busy man. Successful, successful man, too!

Tom Ammann presents a whole gang of comedians at the Victoria Theatre on Saturday night at 2100, \$10 advance, \$12 at the door. The show's called "Get Off My Dress"—this Stonewall laugh riot will give the "straights" plenty of "agida" (Tom's word, meaning aggravation with nausea! Now's the time to laugh!

Saturday, too, it's Physique '89 at the Palace of Fine Arts! Lots of flesh! Flash! Make a fool of yourself—go on, girl!

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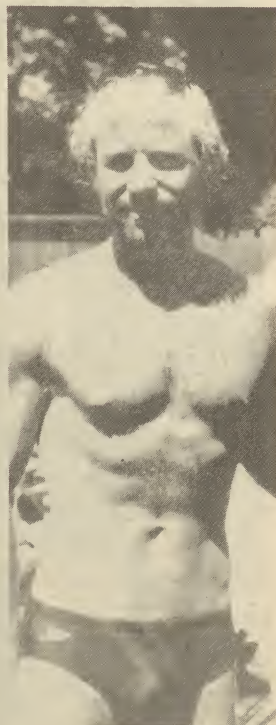
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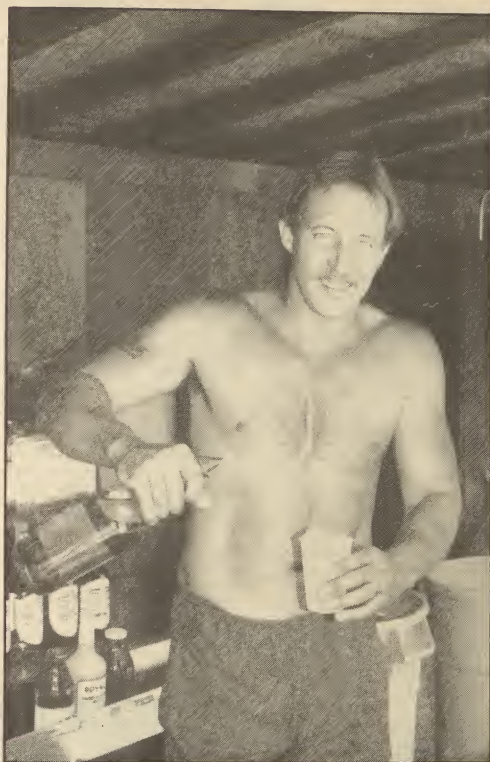
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Jeff, right, won the bare-chest Sunday.



Lenny, the Woods' hot new bartender. (Photo: Marcus)



This dude was unfazed by all the contest hoopla at the Woods. (Photo: Marcus)

Sunday, it's the parade! Need I say more. Leather mavens will enjoy the leather stage on Polk and Golden Gate Avenue around 1700 hours when what has been described as a "leather perspective" of leather life since Stonewall will be presented by some veterans of the leather scene and some newer title holders. Thanks, Ricky Stricko. I'm glad someone on the parade committee recognizes leather. The anniversary program certainly ignored all that leathermen have contributed to the good of the community! But that's OK. All leathermen know

their accomplishments. It would be nice if they got recognized once in a while for the millions of dollars they've raised! I don't know how much leather will be in this parade.

Don't forget the Mr. Powerhouse finals are next Friday, June 30, beginning at 2200 hours. The winner gets a round-trip ticket to Mazatlan.

Late Flash!

P.S.: After the parade, the Barbary Coasters M/C enjoy with the grand duke and the grand duchess for an \$8 beer bust and barbecue at the S.F. Eagle.

If you just can't handle the parade crowd (or afford \$25 to sit in bleachers), M.E.N. Video will begin "Instant Replay" of the parade beginning at 1500 hours at the following bars: S.F. Eagle, Rawhide II, Castro Station, Polk Gulch Saloon, Moby Dick's, the

Galleon, Pendulum, Maud's and Amelia's. It will also be shown at the Turf Club in Hayward Sunday evening. Why fight the crowds? Sip your cocktail/beer and enjoy it in living color! Remember: Instant replay of the parade starts at 1500 hours at your favorite video bar!

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P.S. Happy birthday to Al Parker, Sunday, June 25.

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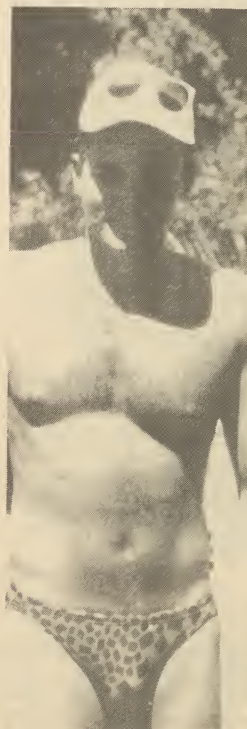
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Polk Street Gossip

The Polk Rendezvous and the Gay Softball League would like to thank everyone who attended the Benefit Auction on Tuesday the 13th. The auction was a great success and raised more than \$1,000, with 1/3 going to charity. Nice work, David.

Don't forget all of the events taking place this weekend before, during and after the Gay Freedom Day Parade... do participate and enjoy... and how do you like this issue of the *B.A.R.*? A nice job done by the staff.

Happy Birthday to Molly, a Polk Street favorite, but you don't look 60, dear.

Billy Fogelman is back on the plank and looking great with his Hawaiian tan, and yes he is still at the Special on Castro Street.

Splatters on Mission Street is still a great place for a cocktail and a great lunch with their congenial staff. Hi, Harry.

The Barbary Coasters invite you to join in a celebration of

"Stonewall 20: A Generation of Pride" on Sunday the 25th after the parade from 3-6 p.m. An \$8 donation includes food and a beer bust at the very popular S.F. Eagle. Right, Stella?

Congrats to Ben, Sophie and Rene on the opening of Chicago's newest hot bar... The Lucky Horseshoe Lounge at 3169 North Halsted in Chicago... hope you come out for a visit soon, Sophie.

Memo to: Lou Franzes, aka Luigi, how come you never stop by and see me on Wednesday nites from 5-8 while we serve canapes at the Yacht Club? You will get to meet Jerry, our very personable evening bartender.

On Sunday, July 2, the Hob Nob will be having a barbeque from 2 p.m. on with Billy Bunz, Maxine and Albert doing the honors with the help of Michael T. So come on down and join in the fun... and Maxine promises no pou pous.

Charpe's Grill on Gough



Franklin at the Closet Ball.

(Photo: Sweet Lips)

Street is still serving up some of the best dinners in town with a good capable staff. Right, Jim Doanne?

The very popular Mr. George Buchanan and his Marionettes are appearing in Kimo's Show Room on Fridays and Saturdays, and if you haven't seen this man do his stuff, you had better check with Kimo's for times and dates. He is fantastic.

How did you like your surprise

canapes last Friday at Kimo's, Ms. Lips, aka Craig?

Larry of the Rendezvous and Billy of the Giraffe... is this an item, and are you cheating on me?

Billy Pearson... remember I don't get even I get revenge, honey.

Dick Cook of Reflections, Dolly Dale of Polk Gulch Saloon and Randy Humphries of the S.F. Eagle have all gone to Puerto

Vallarta for a much needed vacation. But Dolly, wouldn't you have a better time without Cook?

Thank you Danny Woodland for helping us out at the Hob Nob last Saturday and Sunday. You did a beautiful job.

Empress Frieda is still holding court at the popular Kokpit, but remember Frieda, never higher than the crown.

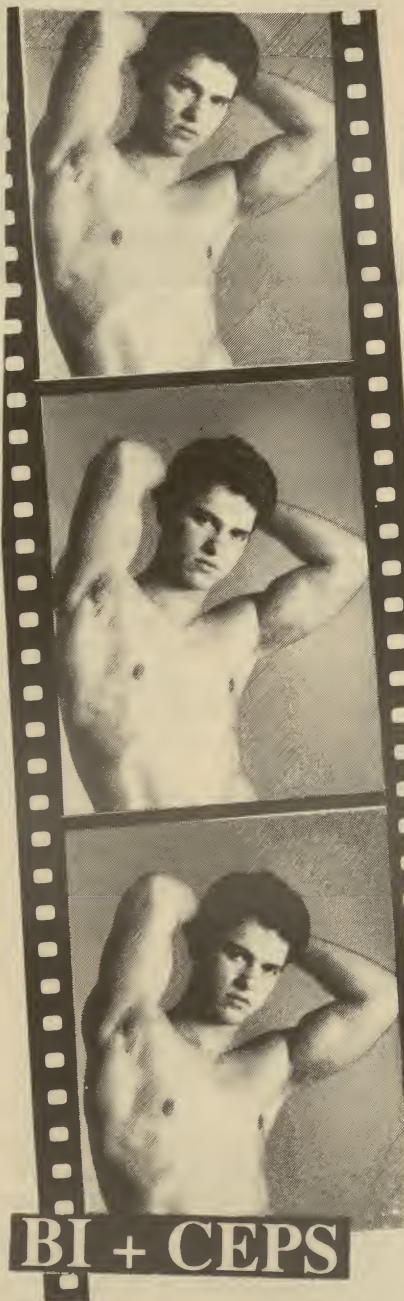
Which bartender at the Polk Gulch is known as Tony Savalis?

Happy Birthday greetings to the one and only Durwood on Monday the 26th... it has been so long since I have seen you I really forget how old you are.

"Designs by Fire," a hot new idea of interior decorating and remodeling that I can vouch for as Flame has done some great work for me and will be doing the Hob Nob over in July. If you need work done call 775-1119.

Dennis Klink, where are you these days, and how is the baby? Hi, Tony.

Larry Howell and lady friend were having dinner at the Gate last Saturday nite, and they seemed very happy with the meal. Yes, it is great food.



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Greta Grass. (Photo: Sweet Lips)

Art York wants to know why Jim Dewey keeps singing "All I want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth," and how is the Pendulum, Jim?

Don't forget the bartender of the year contest coming up that Gary Menger is coordinator of and put on by Jerry and Pat... for more information call Gary at 552-8798 as it promises to be a fundraiser for AIDS.

Have a nice Gay Freedom Day weekend. ▼

Garage Sale To Benefit Emergency Fund

A "Garage Sale Gala" featuring "classy stuff, designer clothes and all the usual junk" will be held from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday July 8 at Hartford Properties' parking lot, 1929 Market St. near Guerrero.

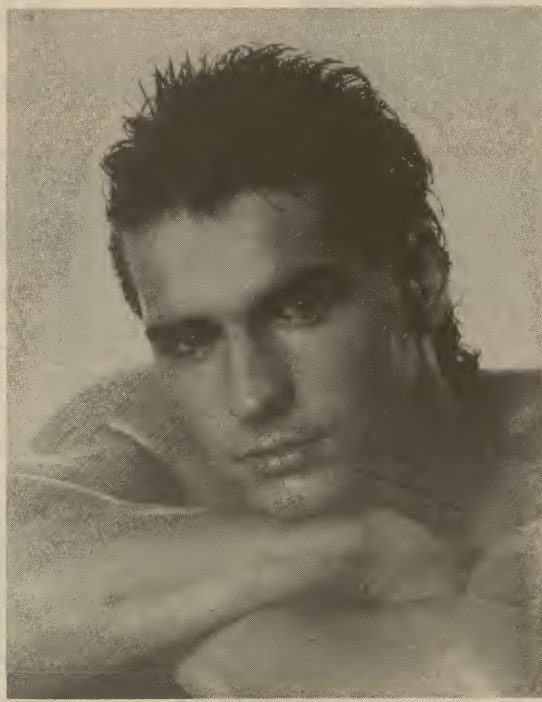
All proceeds will be shared equally by The AIDS Emergency Fund, which will use its proceeds to pay rent for people with AIDS, and The Episcopal Sanctuary for the Homeless.

The garage sale is a community project of Hartford Properties Real Estate and will include "upscale and not-so-upscale items" from Hartford's agents and clients. ▼



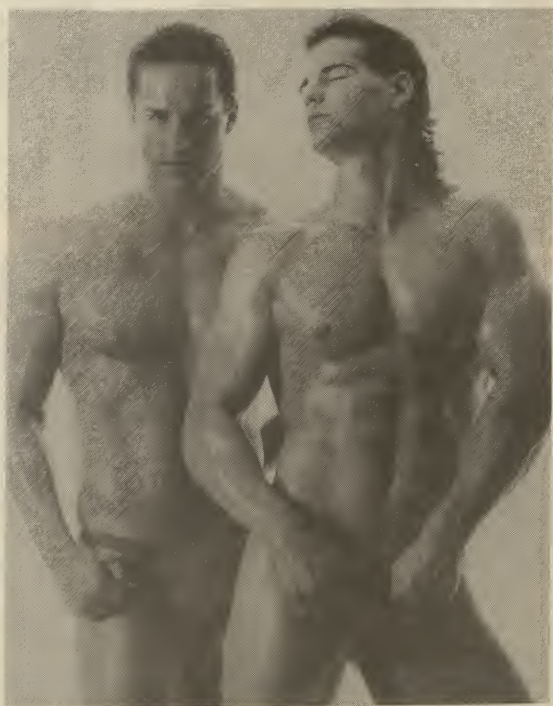
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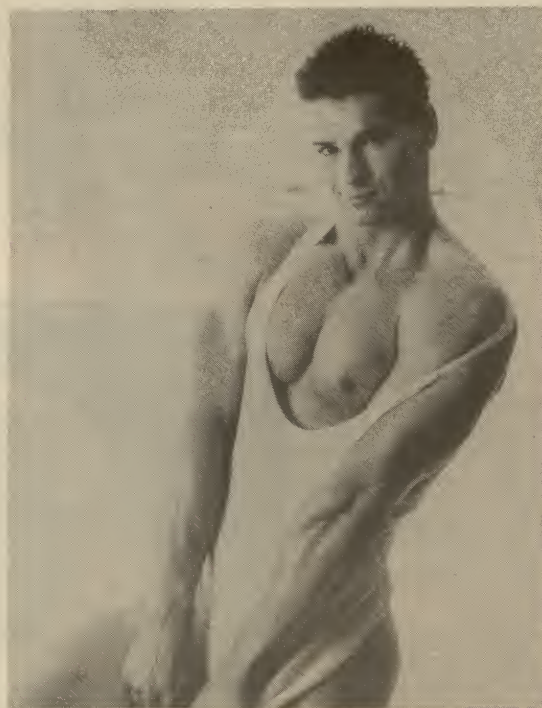
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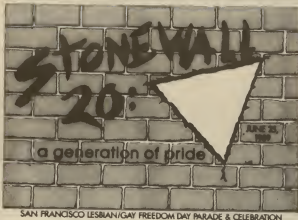
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SAN FRANCISCO LESBIAN/GAY FREEDOM DAY PARADE & CELEBRATION

Stonewall Linked Gay Politics, Gay Theatre

by Wendell Ricketts

By December 1979, critic and theatre historian Terry Helbing was able to list as many as 12 American lesbian or gay theatre companies in his *Directory of Gay Plays*. William Hoffman, in the introduction to his anthology, *Gay Plays*, published that same year, added six others to the list. The United Kingdom boasted at least two gay theatre groups in operation during the late '70s, one in London and one in Edinburgh, and there was even a gay troupe in New South Wales, Australia.

By the end of the first decade after Stonewall, in other words, gay theatre seemed to be thriving.

In large part, the flourishing not just of gay theatre but of lesbian and gay theatres represented the true legacy of the gay dramatic arts of 10 years of post-Stonewall liberation. During those heady years, gay audiences had grown less and less willing to settle for encoded, heterosexually biased, scandalous representations of homosexuality on stage; they were no longer content with what Hoffman called "winks across the footlights."

Instead, they wanted to see (and lesbian and gay playwrights wanted to create) dramatic works in which gay life was examined from a perspective that was, if not necessarily uncritical, at least ultimately sympathetic.

The growth of gay theatre companies during the last half of the 1970s—and the production during those years of literally scores of new lesbian-and-gay themed plays—marked a genuine innovation: the consistent, intentional presentation of theatre for lesbian and gay people by lesbian and gay people. Gay theatre and gay politics, that is, had been irrevocably linked by Stonewall.

Homosexuality had, of course, found its way onto stage long before Stonewall, and even modern audiences are familiar with the "homosexuality as dirty secret" school of theatre, as evidenced by *The Children's Hour* (1934), *Tea and Sympathy* (1953), and *Suddenly Last Summer* (1958), among many others.

By the mid-'60s, the pathetic invert was daring to speak her or his name in person; *The Killing of Sister George* (1965) and *Staircase* (1966) come immediately to mind. Each of these five plays, incidentally, later became a motion picture, an opportunity that would not come to a gay-affirmative play until *Torch Song Trilogy* made the transfer to celluloid in 1988.

During the pre-Stonewall years, an alternative voice was raising itself, however, albeit faintly. As early as 1961 the Cafe Cino playwrights had begun to produce club-style gay theatre for the Greenwich Village art crowd. The talents of gay playwrights Lanford Wilson, Robert Patrick and Doric Wilson, to name perhaps the best known Cino graduates, were nurtured there.

In addition to being a catalyst for the post-Stonewall gay theatre movement, Caffe Cino was also pivotal in the development of the Off- and Off-Off-Broadway scene—then, much more than to-

day, an exuberant, vital force in American theatre. Some of Cino's notable descendants include the Rev. Al Carmines' Judson Poets' Theatre, LaMama Experimental Theatre Club, and The Glines.

But with gay lib came the liberation of gay theatre, and with that came the demand for "positive" images of gays and lesbians in theatre. The signal theatre event of the era, of course, was the 1968 stage production of *Boys in the Band* and the widely distributed movie that followed in 1969.

About *Boys*, nearly everything has been said: that it helped usher in Stonewall, that its outrageous depictions set gay lib back 20 years, that it is one of the most homophobic plays of all time, that it was perhaps the first play to give genuine dimension to the lives of a variety of gay characters. Whatever one's opinion, *Boys in the Band* is a standard by which gay theatre has often been measured; it certainly contributed to a vast stirring up of the play-writing world as authors scrambled to answer the boisterous call for "positive" new gay characters.

What was considered "positive," of course, depended largely on who did the evaluating. Somewhat paradoxically, a great many gay plays of the '70s—chiefly men's plays—represented aspects of gay life that mainstream theatre would have been heartily criticized for exploring. (Indeed, these were often some of the very issues raised in *Boys in the Band*.)

In Ramon Delgado's *Once Below the Lighthouse* (The Glines, 1977), for example, a lonely older man picks up a "straight" young hustler on the beach and they manage to find something like love for an evening; similarly, a gay liberationist can't help falling for a Puerto Rican hustler in Richard Hall's *Prisoner of Love* (1978).

(Continued on page 95)

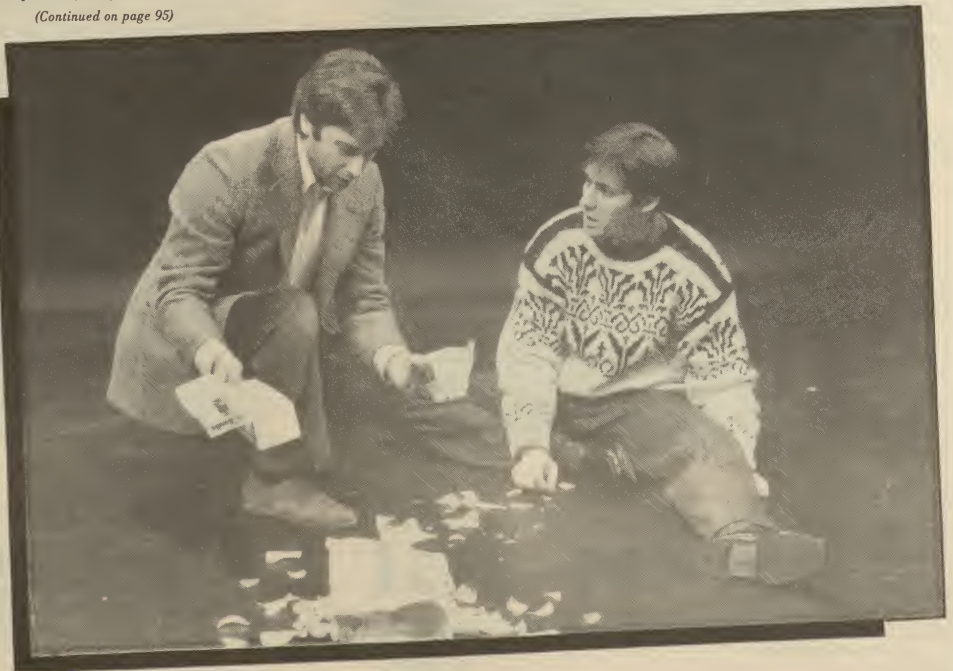


Dancing in the Dark, a suspense-comedy by D.R. Andersen.

(Photo: Mark Chester)



What's a Mother to Do? a farce about gay men and their mothers.



Ned Weeks chides Felix Turner for neglecting his nutrition in Larry Kramer's AIDS play *The Normal Heart*.

Lesbians Have Come Far But Have Yet to Come Out

by Noreen C. Barnes

At the time of Stonewall, images of the lesbian in dramatic literature were scarce. Those that did exist were found in *The Children's Hour*, which Lillian Hellman asserted was not about lesbianism, but about a lie, and *The Killing of Sister George*, a male playwright's version of an unhappy butch/femme relationship.

However, in the 1970s a flood of plays by lesbians were written, and a number of theatre companies—most short-lived—were formed to stage them. These included the Lavender Cellar Theatre in Minneapolis, Medusa's Revenge in New York, Atlanta's Red Dyke Theatre, and It's Just A State in San Francisco.

At the end of the decade, Jane Chambers emerged as the best established lesbian playwright. Her realistic works included the popular *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove*, which has even been produced on college campuses, as well as *My Blue Heaven*, *A Late Snow*, *Quintessential Image* and *Kudzu* (all of which were staged at Theatre Rhinoceros during the 1980s).

Despite being an award-winning writer, and well-known in the Off-Broadway and lesbian communities, Chambers' work and life went unacknowledged in the mainstream theatre and the world at large. Dolores Klaich recalled the *New York Times* obituary for Chambers in 1983, and noted:

"...the fact that much of Jane's playwriting had been concerned with lesbian issues was nowhere mentioned; and the fact that she was survived by Beth Allen, her lover of 14 years, was nowhere cited. Both of these fundamental truths about Jane had been edited out of the press release sent to the *Times*. For the record, Jane Chambers' essence never existed."

The problem of invisibility—even the best-known of lesbian dramatists—is still evident in a number of works on women's theatre. Many books on the subject avoid the "L" word, or if they do mention lesbian scripts and performance, it is done so as if it were an uncomfortable obligation.

To counter the homophobia that still lingers, it has taken the pioneering work of such lesbian theorist-critics as Jill Dolan (*The Feminist Spectator as Critic*) and Sue-Ellen Case (*Feminism and Theatre*) to smash the heterosexual academic approach to theatre, and a wide range of playwrighting styles by lesbian authors—from the eclectic Sarah Dreher (*8 X 10 Glossy*, and a collection of plays, *Lesbian Stages*), to the brash and irreverent Holly Hughes (*The Lady Dick*, *Dress Suits to Hire*, *The Well of Horniness*)—to create a body of work offering an alternative perspective. Lesbian performers, such as Terry Baum (whose comedy of eros, *One Fool*, is a tour de force), and Lois Weaver and Peggy Shaw, the gender/role-play artists of Split Britches, have made us think about the nature of theatre—one intended to be performed for a lesbian audience. The view of women of color, as in Cherrie Moraga's *Giving Up The Ghost*, offers yet another survey of the lesbian landscape.

Reflecting on the changes in lesbian theatres and drama in the past two decades, and on her work as a director, writer and actor, Adele Prandini (who is also Theatre Rhinoceros' production manager, and has been instrumental in the formation of Brava! For Women in the Arts) noted that initially what was important for lesbian theatre artists was to simply "get the work out."

In the 1970s there was an "urgency to produce work in which we made our coming out, butch/femme, and 'I'm proud to be who I am' statements. After you do that, then you can really work on something," Prandini by no means denies the importance of works that deal with lesbian identity and acceptance (as did her own play, *A Safe Light*, produced in 1984), but rather views them as the foundation which allows for the explorations of other issues and questions—ones that deal with lesbianism in a larger context, and one in which lesbianism is *already* accepted.

Her direction of the productions of *Pulp and Circumstance* (co-authored with Sue Zemel in 1987), and this year's *Queen of*



Lillian Hellman's gripping drama, *The Children's Hour*.

Swords (by Judy Grahn) at Theatre Rhinoceros attest to her commitment to working in the "larger context"—both figuratively and literally. Both involved her assembling and collaborating with a large number of theatre artists—actors, musicians, designers, technicians, choreographers and other specialists.

Prandini believes that it is not enough for the theatre, while "rooting us to our humanness," to "simply portray the way life is"—rather, "it has to be different" in order to "affect a change in the thought and behavior of the audience."

She also finds it vital to work, when directing and writing, "in a physical way," concentrating on action, as an actor's "body memory" is stronger than her ability to recall lines. And the imagination must be engaged as well, to connect body and mind.

Now is the time for lesbian theatre artists to get as much



The Goddess of Death and Transformation seduces Helen, the Goddess of Love and Beauty, in *The Queen of Swords*, presented at Theatre Rhinoceros.

good training as possible, urges Prandini. And it is easier for women to find teachers now than it was 20 years ago. Lesbians were "up against a heterosexual mentality" in terms of both the content of dramatic works and in actor training, particularly in physical work.

"What was a butch to do," Prandini asks, "in a dance class?"

There has, however, been a significant change in the conditions in which that training can be accomplished, as now a number of women who have been

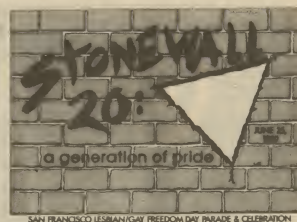
working in the theatre for several decades are guiding the work of other women.

Doing research for a script, which is in part about an interracial lesbian relationship, Prandini says that "it's time for women of color and white women to work together. As artists, we have to expand our borders." Her own casting practice (as in *Queen of Swords*) is evidence of this belief, and she sees an increase of racial mixing in theatre work, as well as that of people of different sexual preferences.

(Continued on page 108)



The original musical comedy send-up of the lesbian erotic novels of the '50s, *Pulp and Circumstance*.



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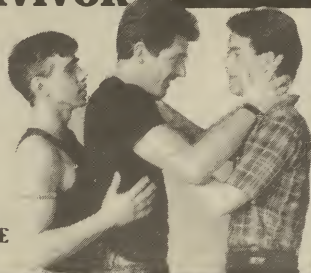
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- El Rio: feature DJ Peggy Key, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. 3158 Mission. 282-3325.
- Ballroom & Latin Dancing for Gays/Lesbians: Cha-cha, 7:30-8:30 p.m. beginners; 8:30-9:30 p.m. in-termediate. \$7/class, \$12/both. Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts, 1519 Mission/11th Sts. 995-4962.
- Deborah Lewis: one woman performance show; June 23, 24 at 8:30 p.m. \$10, 282-4020 or 665-8282. Third Wave Theatre, 3316 24th St./Mission.
- Fraternity: progressive modern music, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. at Scooters, 22 4th St. 777-0880.
- Marga Gomez: thru June 25 at the Improv Comedy Club, 401 Mason/Geary. Info/reserv. call 441-RSVP.
- Healin' Dirt Diner: a new lesbian play with music. Preview tonight, opens tomorrow thru July 23. 8:30 p.m. \$9. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St.-Charge: 861-5079.
- Blazing Redheads: hot women's band! Dance! 9 p.m. \$9. 18+ w/ID. Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell. 885-0750.
- A Gala Chorus Review: 8 No. Cal. gay/lesbian choruses celebrate Gay Pride Week. 8 p.m. \$8-12. Mission High School, 18th & Church, SF. Tickets: 552-3656 or 762-BASS.
- Dudes & Words: informal evening of creative story-telling. 8 p.m. Studio 4, 2702 18th St./York. \$3, no one turned away. Handicapped access. 863-0582.
- Gay In America: SF Examiner photographer Elizabeth Mangeldorf slide show/discussion. 7:30 p.m. \$3-5. Eye Gallery, 1151 Mission. 431-6811. Thru June 25.
- Concerto Collective: works by Bach, Mozart, Weber, Beethoven, Montfort. 8 p.m. \$10 donation. MCC, 150 Eureka. 552-5639. AIDS Emergency Fund, MCC AIDS Ministry benefit.
- Remembering Stonewall: 30 min. radio documentary. 7:30 a.m. KPFA 94.1-FM. Again June 27, noon.
- Bill Folk & Band: America's gay troubadour. 8 p.m. \$12. Nova Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez/23rd. 626-7423.
- Times of Harvey Milk: Academy Award-winning film of slain SF supervisor. 12 a.m. KQED TV, Ch. 9.
- Celebrate Lesbian Identity/Lives: support lesbian marines at Parris Island. Speakers & party to follow. 8 p.m. \$5-15. WOMEN ONLY (smoke/alcohol free). Women's Bldg, 3543 18th St. 665-6746.
- Electric City: South Bay, KCAT, every Friday 7:30 p.m.
- Fetish Night: 735 Tehama, 9 p.m.-6 a.m. Exhibit the fetish of your choice. Males 18+. Info: 621-1887.

SATURDAY 24

- CREW: gay house music club. Every Saturday, doors at 9:30 p.m., afterhours, 21+ \$8. 520 4th St./Bryant. Call: 978-CREW.
- El Rio: features Eskimo, 501 Spanish Verbs, Frontier Wives, 10 p.m. 1 a.m. \$5. 3158 Mission. 282-3325.
- Mystique: dance to the rapture of over 400 women at Scooters, 22 4th St. 227-0135.
- HIV Treatment Awareness Week: health fair open to public, free. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Civic Auditorium, 99 Grove. 955-2666. Learn your options & how to cope.
- Soul Survivor: the hit romantic comedy recently extended. benefits Art Against AIDS. 3 p.m. \$10, 861-5079. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St.
- A Different Light Bookstore: Tina Tessina, *Gay Relationships*, book signing/discussion. 4 p.m. 489 Castro. 431-0891.
- A Stonewall Laugh Riot...Get Off My Dress: with Tom Ammann, Laurie Bushman, Mark Johnson, Kelly Kittell, Karen Ripley, Jeanine Strobel, Karen Williams, the Doublemint Twins & more. 9 p.m. \$12; \$10 adv. BASS or 863-7576. Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th St. (at BART).
- Chaka Kahn at CREW: in concert! 9:30 p.m. \$15 adv. (from BASS). 520 4th St. 978-CREW.
- Bi+Ceps: house music, muscle fashions, erotic films. SF Mart, 875 Stevenson. 10 p.m.-4 a.m. \$10 at Rolos, \$12 on event day. 648-5569.
- Physique '89: natl. gay/lesbian bodybuilding championships. Pre-competition, 9 a.m., \$5. Finals & show, 7 p.m., \$15-35. Charge: 552-3656, or BASS, STBS. Palace of Fine Arts.
- BAYOPS Party for Users & Friends: 7-9 p.m. \$5. Eagle, Harrison/12th St. Computer & bulletin board operators.
- Gay Pride Month: Rights & Reactions: Lesbian/Gay Rights on Trial, 2 p.m., KQED TV 9; We Are Family, 4:30 p.m., KQED TV 32; Out In Suburbia, 11:30 p.m., KQEC; Before Stonewall, 5:30 p.m.; KQEC Relationships: live call-in program, 1:30 p.m., KQED FM-88.5; Radio Playhouse: Last Call, 10 p.m., KQED FM-88.5.
- Black & White Men Together: monthly interracial workshop/social mixers. 7 p.m. sharp. 10 p.m. \$5 donation. All Saints Episcopal Church, 1350 Waller. 641-5706.

Share Food D-Day: non-profit meat/produce/grocery distribution in today for all June SHARE participants. Call 467-2506 for Bay Area times & locations. Sign up thru July 8 for next SHARE self-help food packages.

- Dudes & Guitars: new punk sounds from Sharkbait, Something Scaly, Less Is More, Shit Howdy. 8 p.m. \$3, no one turned away. Studio 4, 2702 18th/York. 863-0582.
- SF Hiking Club Garage Sale: 14th St./Sanchez (near Market & Church). 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Pre-Parade Eucharist & Potluck: 6 p.m. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church/Market. 621-2635.
- Berkeley Women's Free Clinic: Saturday mornings call exactly 8:30 a.m. for a 9:15 a.m. same morning appointment. Gynecological exams, PAP smears, STD & Bladder infection, testing & treatment, pregnancy tests. Women's health care by and for women. 2339 Durant Ave./Dana.
- Phallic Fellowship: 735 Tehama, 8 p.m.-6 a.m. \$7 contribution. Info: 621-1887.

SUNDAY 25

- El Rio: Voz, Brazilian/Pop! 4-8 p.m. 3158 Mission. 282-3325.
- Club St. John: T Dance-Mrs. Delicious & Her Men. 8 p.m.-170 W. St. John St., San Jose. 947-1667.
- Let's Dance at the Beach: after the parade till very late. Gift Center, \$12 in adv. at Headlines, \$15 at door. Benefits AIDS Emergency Fund. Del Rubio Triplets sing & more!
- HIV Treatment Awareness Week Tea Dance: \$20. 4-9 p.m. Civic Auditorium, 99 Grove. 955-2666.
- Women's Parade Party: dance to the rapture at Mystique. Free t-shirt to first 400 women. 5 p.m.-2 a.m. at Scooters, 22 4th St.-777-0880.
- Women's Tea Dance at B Street: Kim Shepard hosts. 236 B St., San Mateo. Variety entertainment. 348-4045.
- Tegal Tegal Tegal: by Boy Party & CREW. After the Parade, 5-10 p.m. 520 4th St. \$6, 5-6 p.m.; \$8 after.
- Solid As A Rock 1989: I-Beam Gay Freedom Day Celebration! 5 p.m.-2 a.m. \$3 w/invoke or tea dance pass; \$7 general. Recording star ADEVA to perform.
- Stonewall 20 Celebration: 3 p.m.-6 p.m. SF Eagle, 396 12th St. \$8 donation, beer bust & food. Barbary Coasters & Royal Court of the Golden Bear & Jade Dragon.
- NAMES Project AIDS Balloon Launch: 5 p.m. at booth at Civic Center. Names of AIDS victims may be added for launching all weekend at workshop or parade booth.
- SF Jacks: post parade pecker pump & pud pageant! Doors 3:30-6:30 p.m., party til 9. \$7. BYOB in cans. 890 Folsom, buzz for entry.
- Gay Freedom Day Open House: visit the famous Phallic Church of San Francisco. Open house, 2 p.m.-12 a.m. 735 Tehama. Males 18+. 621-1887.
- Lesbian & Gay Freedom Day Celebration Service: Cleve Jones, speaker. 7 p.m. MCC, 150 Eureka. 863-4434.
- Electric City: Sundays, SF cable 35, 10 p.m.
- Community Spirit Healing Circle: doors at 7 p.m.; Circle at 7:30 p.m. sharp. Zen Cntr Guest House, 273 Page/Octavia.
- Men's Clinic: free/confidential VD testing and treatment for gonorrhea, syphilis, NGU, scabies, lice, venereal warts, etc. AIDS/ARC counselling and referrals. Gay Men's Health Collective, 2339 Durant Ave., 6-8 p.m. Call 644-0425.
- Dignity: Liturgy for gay/lesbian Catholics and friends at 5:30 p.m. at Dolores St. Community Cntr, 15th and Dolores. Call 255-9244.
- Integrity: Eucharist 5:30 p.m. St. John's Episcopal Church, 1661 15th St./Valencia. 553-5270.
- Golden Gate MCC: 10:30 and 7 p.m. at 48 Belcher St., San Francisco. Call 474-4848.
- Marin MCC: MCC of the Redwoods has services at 6 p.m., 8 Olive St., Mill Valley. Call 388-2315.
- SF MCC: services, 150 Eureka St., S.F. 9 and 11 a.m. (with childcare and signing for the hearing-impaired) and 7 p.m. Call 863-4434.
- New Life MCC: Worship service, 1823 9th St., Berkeley. 5 p.m. Call 843-9355.
- MCC Santa Rosa: Worship service, 515 Orchard St., 11 a.m. Call (707) 526-HOPE.
- All Cried Out: photo-documentary on AIDS crisis by Charles Clark. Thru July 1. Vorpall Gallery, 393 Grove. 397-9200. Benefits Project Open Hand.
- Gay Artists & Writers Collective (GAWK): meets 7:30 p.m. Call Jon Sugar, 731-2424, for info & details.
- Support Group for Older Gay Men (60+): Operation Concern, 1853 Market. FREE. 7-9 p.m. Gay & Lesbian Outreach to Elders (GLOE): 626-7000.
- Reading & Writing: Interior Thought & Verbal Expression: MCC's monthly women's gathering. Anne Bourdon, moderator. 7:30 p.m. MCC, 150 Eureka. 863-4434.

MONDAY 26

WEEK

- **Springboard Diving Class & Training:** beginner thru advanced. Info/reg.: Bob Murphy, 552-0820, or Leslie King, 566-6820. Mon & Wed, 7 p.m.; Tues & Thu, 3:30 p.m.
- **Help Wanted:** by Franz X. Kroetz, presented by The Z Collective. Sat, Sun, Mon thru June 26. SF Dance Theatre, 60 Brady (across from Zuni Cafe). \$8 donation. 863-4793.
- **20th Reunion Lowell High School Class of '70:** names & addresses of any missing graduates to Lowell Reunion, 3110 Laguna Apt. 1, SF, CA 94123.
- **Community Action Network News:** every Monday, 7:30 p.m. Mountain View Cable 30.
- **Outlook:** monthly lesbian/gay video magazine. 10:30 p.m., cable 37 Sacramento. Repeats June 27, 5:30 p.m. & June 28, 12:30 p.m. Vito Russo, Van Ault, Bennet Marks.
- **Gay Basketball:** looking for new people, 7:15 p.m. every Monday at 1525 Waller St. (Haight). 621-2710.
- **Co-Dependent No More Support Group:** facilitated by Bob Pettymann. 7-8:30 p.m. Kairos House, 114 Douglass St.
- **Hayward & Tri-City HIV+ Support Group:** for PWAS/PWARCS and their loved ones. Every Monday, 10-11:30 a.m. or 7-8:30 p.m.; Thursdays, 2:30-4 p.m. Call: 887-0566.
- **HIV+ Spiritual Support Group:** weekly, SF MCC, 150 Eureka. Call: 863-4434.
- **Alanon:** Meeting for people with AIDS/ARC/HIV, positive concerns. Rest Stop, 134 Church St., S.F., 7:30-9 p.m. Call: 621-REST.

- **El Rio:** comics Marga Gomez, Teresa Holcomb. \$5. 9-11 p.m. 3158 Mission.
- **Crossing the Divides of Sex, Race and Class in the Peace Movement:** features Wilmette Brown, *Black Women & The Peace Movement*. 7 p.m. Western Addition Library, 1550 Scott. International Wages for Housework Campaign. sponsor: 558-9628.
- **Care Partners Support Group:** 7:30-9 p.m. MCC, 150 Eureka. 863-4434. For terminal patient caregivers.
- **Centering Prayer, Breathing Prayer, Prayer Without Casing:** How to open to the Spirit. FREE. Patrick Heray facilitator. 8-10 p.m. MCC, rm. 105, 150 Eureka. 863-4434.
- **SF Hiking Club:** long range planning meeting & potluck supper. Felix Smith & Jim Binder, hosts. Call 647-2193 or 826-2332. Bring dish for potluck at 6:30 p.m.
- **Humping Night on Clementina:** get over the hump of the week. 746 Clementina Apt. 2. 9 p.m.: midnight. Male 18+. 621-1887.
- **Endup:** \$1 night. 401 6th St. 495 6th St.
- **Gay/Lesbian Older Writers (50+) Group:** Operation Concern, 1853 Market. FREE. 7-9 p.m. GLOE: 626-7000.
- **Our Recovery:** 6-8 p.m. A substance abuse support group for gay men with at least 1 year in a recovery program. Call 550-8561, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., M-F. Iv. msg.
- **Electric City:** Wednesdays, SF cable 35, 8 p.m.
- **KPFA 94.1 FM, Fruit Punch:** 10-11 p.m. Gay men's radio features news, interviews, music, and reviews.
- **F.L.A.M.E.:** healing, bonding, fellowship. 7:30 p.m. 347 Dolores, Rm. 201. Rev. Shay St. John. 565-4122.
- **Operation Recovery Alumni, Inc.:** Group of gay men with at least one year commitment to recovery from alcohol and drug abuse. 6-8 p.m. every Wednesday. Call 550-8561 between 8 a.m.-5 p.m. for locale and info.
- **Meditation Techniques:** Steve Allen, a Buddhist monk, explores meditation techniques with Catagivers, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Kairos House, 114 Douglass. Call: 861-0877.
- **Attitudinal Healing:** Peter Weygant and Madina Sargent lead a group for Caregivers dealing with stress. 7:30-9 p.m. Kairos House, 114 Douglass. 861-0877.
- **A Self-Defense Class:** Learn practical skills in a Castro/Valencia Community College class. Free. Call Chris: 861-3523.
- **Seth Group:** For people concerned with AIDS/ARC/HIV issues. Rest Stop, 134 Church St., S.F., 6-8 p.m., \$1-3 sliding scale (waived for PWAs and PWARCS).

TUESDAY 27

- **A Different Light Bookstore:** famed poet Adrienne Rich, *Time's Power: Poems 1985-1988*, reading & book signing. 7 p.m. 489 Castro. 431-0891.
- **Bi Friendly Night Out:** Castro neighborhood restaurant. 7 p.m. Karla, 863-5961, or Pierre, 753-0687.
- **Gay Artists & Writers Collective (GAWK):** meets 8 p.m. Call Jon Sugar, 731-2424, for info/details.
- **Project Eden, Inc. Hayward:** Have a drug problem or need someone to talk to? Call Project Eden's 24-hour crisis hotline and drop-in counseling: 887-0566. Confidential.
- **Passive Immunotherapy Foundation:** volunteers needed to promote possible effective anti-AIDS therapy. Meets weekly, 7:30 p.m. PATH Project, 333 Valencia, 4th Floor.
- **Golden Gate Wrestling Club:** is holding Olympic Freestyle Wrestling practices twice weekly; new larger locale, easy access by public transportation; prepare for tournaments and Gay Games III. All weights, skills, ages. Gene: 821-2991.
- **Ministry of Light:** Gay men's support group, 8-9:30 p.m., 1000 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Rm. 18, San Anselmo. Call: 457-0854 or 457-1115.
- **Slightly Older Lesbians:** Small group discussion, Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 1040 Park Ave., San Jose, 7-9 p.m.
- **Asian Gay Men's Support Group:** The Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 6:30-8 p.m. Call: 548-8283.
- **Co-Dependency Group:** For caregivers, Kairos House, 114 Douglass St., S.F., 7:30-8:30 p.m. Led by Steve Graham.
- **Gay Male Drop-In Group for Alcohol/Substance Abuse and HIV Concerns:** individual and group process available. 7-9 p.m. at Operation Concern/Recovery, 1853 Market. For intake appointment call 626-7000.
- **Master Your Mind:** Support group for people with AIDS and the worried, led by Mary Richards, 4th floor, 333 Valencia St., S.F., noon-2 p.m. Focus on meditation, visualization, empowerment, and health; not affiliated with the S.F. AIDS Foundation. Call: 945-0941.
- **Evening Group Orientation:** For people with AIDS or ARC, San Francisco AIDS Foundation, 25 Van Ness, suite 680, S.F., FREE. Also on Wednesdays, 11 a.m. Assistance in interpreting financial benefit systems, applying for government assistance programs, and information on social service agencies and discounts available. Reservations: 864-4376.
- **Community United Against Violence:** Support group for battered gay men, 514 Castro St., S.F., 7:30-9:30 p.m., free. Call: 864-3112.
- **AIDS Interfaith Network:** Support group. Parsonage, 555-A Castro St., S.F., 7 p.m., free. Call: 864-7462.
- **Healing Institute:** Meeting/workshop, MCC San Francisco, Room 21, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 7:30-10 p.m. Call: 861-0702.

WEDNESDAY 28

- **Mercury:** progressive/urban house dancing for boys and girls 18+. \$5. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. 520 4th St./Bryant.
- **Soul Survivor:** by Anthony Bruno, directed by Kenneth R. Dixon. Extended thru July 15. Thursdays-Sundays, 8 p.m. \$10-13 (\$1 off w/ canned food donation to SF AIDS Found. Food Bank). Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. Tickets: 861-5079.

THURSDAY 29

- **Colors (aka Scooters):** 22 4th St/Market, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Black & Salsa mix. Every Thursday night.
- **El Rio:** features Nancy Weintraub. No cover. 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m. 3158 Mission. No cover.
- **N Touch Bar:** Feathers & Flesh Show, 10 p.m. 1548 Polk. Dancing, strippers, variety entertainment.
- **Endup:** wet jockey shorts contest with Danny Williams. \$175 in prizes. 401 6th St./Harrison. 495-9550.
- **Modern Times Bookstore:** Ache: An Evening of Black Lesbian Literature. Avotcja, Winn Gilmore, Anita Green, Stephanie Henderson, Pat Parker, Jean Weisinger & Pipa Fleming. emcees. \$4-8. 7:30 p.m. 968 Valencia. 282-9246.
- **ETVC-TVTS & friends social & support club:** presents "Prom Night." Wear your prettiest! SF location. 8 p.m. 849-4112. Write: ETVC, PO Box 6486, SF 94101.
- **Gay Men's Sketch:** one hour poses for advanced artists. Classical nude modeling by bodybuilder Robert Corrick. Bring your own materials. \$12. 1229 Folsom. 7-10 p.m. Limited space. Call Mark for reservation, 621-6294.
- **Coming-Out Group for Women:** June 8-August 31. Thursdays, 7:30-9 p.m. Operation Concern, 1853 Market. Info, intake appointments: 626-7000.
- **Youth Rap & Therapy Group:** for gay/lesbian/bis under 22. 4:53-6 p.m. Center for Special Problems, 1700 Jackson. Info: Rik or Holly, 558-4801.
- **HIV+ Support Group:** meets weekly at 6 p.m. Operation Concern, 1853 Market. No fee/registration. Call 626-7000.
- **Grief Recovery:** weekly support group 6 p.m.-8 p.m. at Hospice By the Bay, 1550 Sutter. Call 673-2020.
- **Support Group:** Richard Wagner, PhD. directs group for caregivers, 7:30-9 p.m. Kairos House, 114 Douglass.
- **ARC Support Group:** meets weekly at 6 p.m. at Health Center No. 1, 3850 17th St., Room 206. No fee/registration. All PWARCS are welcomed. Call: 626-7000.
- **S.F. Water Polo Practices:** 8-9 p.m. in Berkeley. Men and women of all ability levels welcomed. Call John at 621-0783 or Laurie at 255-9091.
- **Asian/Pacific Island HIV:** Support group for bisexual and gay men. Rest Stop, 134 Church St., S.F., 8-9:30 p.m. Call 621-REST.
- **Positive Opportunities for Wellness:** Support group for men with HIV+, ARC, or AIDS. 7:30-9:30 p.m., free. Facilitated by Julian Baird. Refreshments. Call 285-3561.

"Outlook" monthly lesbian/gay video magazine

Thurs. June 22 at 6:30 p.m. on S.F. Cable 6
8 p.m., Cable 30 In Cupertino, Los Altos
8:30 p.m., Mountain View Cable 30
also Wed. June 7 at 9 p.m. on
PCTV Cable Network, East Bay

Quality Gay Television At Last!

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Gay & Lesbian Literature

A DIFFERENT LIGHT

489 Castro Street, San Francisco, CA 94114 (415) 431-0891

JUNE EVENTS AT A DIFFERENT LIGHT for info 431-0891

Saturday, June 24, 4 p.m.

TINA TESSINA: "Gay Relationships"
Book signing and discussion

Saturday, June 24, 9 p.m.

GAVIN DILLARD: "The Naked Poet"
The author of "Notes From A Marriage" and
"Pagan Love Songs" reads... in the spirit of
the title of his most recent collection...

Tuesday, June 27, 7 p.m.

SHEPPARD KOMINARS: "Time's Power"

Reading and signing

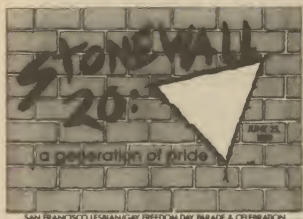
Friday, June 30, 5:30 p.m.

SHEPPARD KOMINARS: "Accepting Our-
selves: The 12-Step Journey of Recovery for
Gay Men and Lesbians" Book signing and talk

Friday, June 30, 7:30 p.m.

SOCIAL STUDIES SERIES: Arthur
Evans: "Revolution Remembered: A Voice
From Stonewall Era" A free talk about when
gay meant more than boys and liberation
more than bars.





John Karr



Wakefield Poole.

No matter what the revolution, can we ever be liberated from porn? Probably not. Nor, I think, should we want to be. While we should fight being defined solely by our sexual preference, we should never, despite the increasing pressures of mainstream acceptance, whitewash or surrender our sexuality to meet the expectations, standards, or morality of those who cannot or will not understand the gay identity.

Rather, we must possess our sexuality as our own, create and identify it for ourselves, and depict it on our own terms. And that, beyond its obvious entertainment value, is the primary function and importance of porno. Still, porno can be the razor's edge, for like sexual freedom, it can be the most abusive of liberties.

Unlike the many liberties of contemporary gay life that can rightly claim the Stonewall riot as their birth, the easy availability of gay erotica is not a direct result of that event, which occurred quite incidentally at the same moment as a revolution porn.

The Stonewall uprising alone didn't lead gay porno from its underground status to its present day legitimacy and abundance. The climate in 1969 was as ripe for gays to rebel against oppression as it was for their sexual lives to be depicted on screen, so it's not surprising that the Stonewall riot was occurring at the same moment Wakefield Poole was editing the movie that was to revolutionize the porno industry.

In the 20 years since, porno has made nearly a complete circle; it's ready for another revolution. It has seen unparalleled boom years, exploded with technical innovation and experimented with form, depicted sexual acts undreamt of by many, settled into comfortable (some say predictable and stale) routine, and alternately ignored, rationalized and grappled directly with the shock waves of AIDS.

It's a story I could narrate myself—the first article I wrote for the *Bay Area Reporter* in July 1978 was a review of the porn film *Hot Truckin'*—and I've covered the field and its product for numerous publications ever since. But why should I pontificate when the story can be told by three of the men who did the deeds, effected the changes and can offer an insider's view of the future.

Poole's work with *Boys in the Sand* wrought huge changes in the standards with which porno was made and marketed, while simultaneously affecting the nation's views and acceptance of porn.

Christopher Rage, through his connection to filmmaker Arch Brown and, more influentially, as scriptwriter and publicist for Jack Deveau, worked backstage in the porn industry throughout the freewheeling, indulgently permissive '70s, before he pioneered the switch from film to video as early as 1980.

And finally, Jack Fritscher, the expansively creative early '70s editor of *Drummer* magazine, and famed author of

mind-and-dick stretching fiction, is taking the medium, in his own idiomatic fashion, into the future, with his company, Palm Drive Video.

A survey of the scene in the mid-'60s shows that only five or six major cities had theatres that exhibited gay erotic films. San Francisco, Los Angeles and Chicago had theirs. And that was about it, except for New York, of course, which had several. The owner of New York's Park Miller has been called "the granddaddy" of the business because of the age of his theatre and the huge number of films he made to be shown there. It was an output rivaled only by the work in Los Angeles of Tom De Simone.

Wakefield Poole: "In those pre-Stonewall days, there was actual penetration, hardcore sex stuff being shown in the big cities, and it was tolerated for some reason. They were showing

stuff that they called "weekend quickies," which had been put together very fast. They weren't done for longevity at all. They were done almost like the Hollywood studios did their B movies—they had contract players, and they'd zip them out as fast as they could for their own theatres. It was not like individual filmmakers selling their work, although there was some of that."

Christopher Rage relates how the number of gay theatres blossomed in New York: "I made my first movie as an actor for Arch Brown in 1971. But Arch had been involved early on though, in 1968 and 69, making loops for Cinema 14, a little grind house down on 14th Street. They were all black and white, and didn't have soundtracks. He made dozens and dozens of loops for a man named Mr. Charles.

"Mr. Charles told me all this later. He was an Egyptian Jew

Gay Pornography: A Retrospective

who had to start his career all over again when he came here after the World War. He had been a projection system designer in Egypt, and he started repairing projectors on 42nd Street, and they asked him if he could build a machine that would show a loop for a quarter. That's how he amassed quite a bit of money, and he went into gay pornography at the King and David cinemas, initially showing slide shows and then silent pictures with a soundtrack running separately, which was also the way a woman named Shelly Wilson started The Eros on 8th Avenue.

"Midtown was desperate for business, and they were all giving over their theatres to gay movies. The people who owned the 55th Street Playhouse didn't give a damn what they showed as long as they had an audience, so they converted to gay porn. There was a liberalization that was all over Manhattan, if not the country. I think it was a reaction to Nixon. Everytime an administration gets oppressive, there's more pornography around.

"But I think it's absolutely unrelated to Stonewall—which was a dingy little firetrap that the police did right in closing down. But it was a time of porno chic. There had never been anything like it. The World Theatre opened *Deep Throat*, and the 55th Street Playhouse opened *Boys in the Sand* with a full page ad in the *New York Times*. All of a sudden these things were being talked about and everybody was seeing them."

Wakefield Poole: "I saw a loop at the Park Miller one night that was so bad it was laughable. That's how I got into making them. I really did it for fun. I'd been given a camera, and I used friends in it, and we did it as a lark. I had no intentions of distributing it when I made it. But when one section turned out so well, everyone said, you should do it.

"I made *Boys in the Sand* in 1969, and it came out in December. It's coincidental that it came at the same time Stonewall occurred, but I think the temperature of what's going on, and the political things that happen are all relative, and reflected in what's going on. Actually, if it hadn't been for Stonewall at that time, we never would have been able to do what we did. We were right on top of it. And it turned out to revolutionize the industry because it set a new standard.

"We were pioneers in opening up the field to individual filmmakers. We distributed it ourselves, not going through a chain of command. Now, I've never seen organized crime as long as I've been in the business, but in those days, it was a group of people who financed themselves, and they had the labs, the ability to get prints made, and the theatres to show the movies in. And we went beyond that structure. That's what the fluke was more than anything. It was the first breakaway from that little organization there.

"So we didn't go to the Park Miller. We went to a theatre where Andy Warhol had been showing his stuff, so that was a little more legit. And we took out

ads in the *Times*. At the time, because no one did it, the *Times* wasn't guarded against films like ours, so we took a huge ad in the Sunday *New York Times* right before Christmas time. There we were, right between *Minnie and Moskowitz* and *Nicholas and Alexandra*. And they didn't have to put an X-rating on it because there were no ratings then. And because of the advertising we had done, and because we had a press agent, it was the first porno film to be reviewed in *Variety*. It was reviewed as a putdown, but as it turned out, everything he said made people want to go see it. He said the casting was done by Dial-A-Hustler, and things like that.

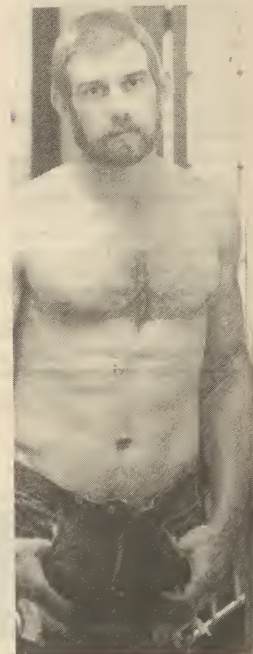
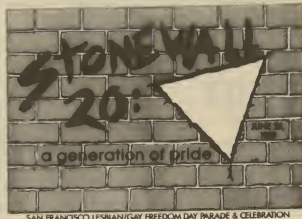
"I wasn't a well-known person, but I had a name in the theatre. I had done some directing off-Broadway (author's note: a dancer/choreographer, Poole was also the man who supplied the sound of Joel Grey's tap dancing on the cast album of *George M.*). And so Vincent Canby came to see it, and we got a few legitimate reviews. And we did several private showings for influential people in the fashion industry and the theatre, and because of my connections with Christmas parties going on, the word of mouth got going. It just sort of snowballed.

"It was the times, I think, a sheer accident. The promotion wasn't an accident, because we worked hard at trying to promote it properly, and doing it with a little class. Not to be too abrasive, but to make our point that it was a gay movie, and that was it. Not to offend anybody, and to protect ourselves, and I think it worked. We ran for 26 weeks.

"Actually *Boys* is loops, but they're linked with a little class. And I tried to promote and market it as if it were something more. We even published film times in the paper, and treated it like it was the first gay feature film. But we took advantage of the political climate. Without Stonewall, we wouldn't have been able to do all that.

"I've gotten feedback, letters and stories, from men who said the film influenced their lives, helped them come out of the closet, or go to a bathhouse for the first time. It was validation, especially in something that had been covert, to see people who weren't seedy and tacky, which they were in those days, or were made to look if they weren't. I wasn't trying to influence people's sexual activities, but wherever you are as a filmmaker is going to be reflected in the film. If I was into poppers and cockrings, like I was during *Boys*, that's what was in the movie. Some people who weren't into them were amazed and taken aback. But they were legitimized by Casey Donovan, who had a great deal to do with the success of the movie, because he was so all American looking.

"The biggest change came after the film. It had all been done under the table. I used to go to a coffee shop and meet a guy who worked in a lab and hand him my film in a paper bag, and the next day he would come back and hand me the original footage, and I'd pay him off in cash. It was very clandestine.



After the film's success I made a few connections and found a lab that would process the film and help me with technical things. So the technical jump in the lighting and the editing, between *Boys* and the next film, *Bijou*, is phenomenal. It's much easier now technically, because your product is right there—with video, you can see what you're doing as you're taping.

"The main change today is that we no longer need the pretext of being not prurient. We don't have to have redeeming social values as we did in my days, which made us strive to have something a little more artistic, or, as I did with *Bijou*, on more levels. What people want today is action, but that's brought it back to loops again, with very sketchy stories, just enough to support the loops, and they're the same ones over and over. I'm not saying there's no good movies out, because there certainly are. But they're getting pretty homogenized.

"Where's it going? I'm not really sure it's going anywhere. There's no mystery anymore, no challenge. They just do it. I would like to be challenged, or see something that I didn't expect to see. That's the main thing, to have a surprise in there.

"I feel pretty good about my part in all this. There was a time, especially at the tail end, when the AIDS situation got so bad and I couldn't continue. When I made *Boys in the Sand, Part Two*, I knew it would be my last movie because I just couldn't deal with it. People said, your tapes are needed because people stay home and they need stimulation. But my heart wasn't in it anymore. You never know who you're asking someone to go to bed with or what their history is, and I didn't want any part of that. I thought, that's enough for me—I rode the merry-go-round long enough, and it's time to change merry-go-rounds. But I don't regret it, I feel good about it."

Poole is now a chef in New York City.

"I've gained weight as a chef," he confided. "When I got into food I had as much good food as I had good sex when I was making porno movies."

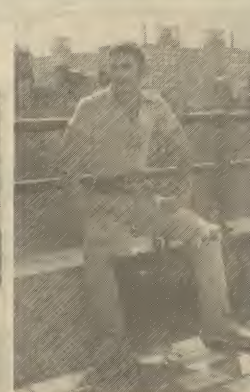
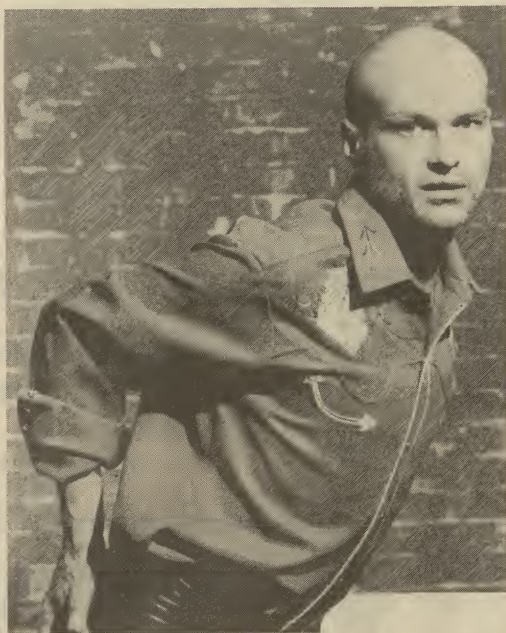
When I teased Poole of occupational hazards, and reminded him that he certainly knew the occupational hazard of the other field he was in, his constant good cheer dropped, and his last words to me were ruefully whispered, "I sure did."

Christopher Rage: "I began doing advertising and publicity for Jack Deveau in 1971. Previous to that, the most negative thing in the field was that it was all owned and run by straight people. Now I will say with great certainty, with all my ears in the business, I have never had any awareness of organized crime control, that it was not an aspect of it. I'm certainly not naive, and from what I hear there's organized crime in any cash business, but I wish people would dispel the connection with porno. The main thing was it was all straight people whose only interest was making money.

"Gay people finally came in, but just as product suppliers. There was one gay theatre owner in New York, and one in Los Angeles, for whom **Tom De Simone** ground out an enormous amount of product, a movie or two a week. These were movies that cost \$3,000 to \$4,000 apiece to make, and were shot in two or three days, shot one week and shown the next. Then Wakefield and his producer Jack Deveau came along, and when Wake made his movie, Jack made his, sort of 'If you can do it, I can too,' which is when Jack made *Left Handed*.

"Other than the involvement of gay people in the business, there was the sexual revolution, which made incredible amounts of sex available, from bathhouses to the trucks to the theatres—and Wakefield mustn't forget that the reason people were going to the theatres was not to see the fucking movies. They were going to have sex, and the movies gave it a legitimacy of sorts, and if there was a new movie, a lot of people would be there, which gave you more reason to go. So to speak of legitimacy here... well, Wake advertised, and did an enormous amount of business. It was startling for a little piece of

(Continued on next page)



Karr

(Continued from previous page)

gay porn—a silent piece, with music added to it. It's not even a very good movie. He did much better work after that. I think *Moving* is a much better movie.

"But, one hand washed the other with that, because if it was an OK thing to admit that you'd gone to the pornos, and you didn't have to sneak in because it was advertised in the paper and Vincent Canby was talking about it, it was OK to do. Now, what you did once you were in there was your business."

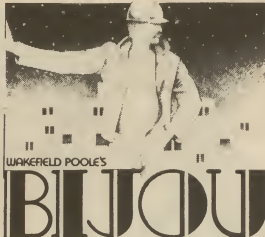
Did the sex depicted on screen affect the behavior of gay men?

Rage: "Never. Of course, I have some investment in saying that. I think people learned

about things that they might not otherwise have learned about, but I don't think movies cause people to do things. Cockrings and fisting spread rapidly after being depicted in movies, but they were spreading rather rapidly around the time that they were depicted. I do believe the chicken-or-egg thing is applicable here.

"I've only been involved in filmmaking since video. I was in promotion and advertising all through the '70s. I shot my first video in 1980. It was an accident. I had no interest in being a filmmaker—I'm not one, I'm a pornographer—but the ready availability of video turned it into another whole field.

"I was running a place called the Show Palace, with live shows,



and I had all these boys parading through. One of my friends bought a video camera when they were first coming out in 1979, and I borrowed it and shot a whole bunch of stuff, and Joe Gage took it to VCA, the Video Corporation of America, and that's how I got a sale out of it. It's *Best of the Superstars*.

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As a direct outgrowth of the heavily plotted films of the '70s, Rage talked about his jump-cut, plotless, only-prurient-interest style. Rage: "When I was running theatres I saw everything over and over again, and the ones that got me off were those chopped up 8mm loops. I thought that things worked better if the viewer put his own story on it and told himself who these people are. So the way I made my movies was a style ready to happen in my head. I didn't want to glop it up with phony cops and some fairy pretending to be a biker. I wanted to go as far away from that as I could. But a lot of that is unconscious. I don't think about that shit when I'm doing it. You talk about masturbatory—it's not that I look at my movies and jerk off, but in the experience of making them interesting and exciting and different for me, that's what I'm constantly trying to do.

"I've found that certain sex acts will sell more copies of a video. But I almost never tell people what to do with a movie. I've always just found people who were good and told them to get as wild and crazy and passionate as they can, and I just take pictures of it.

"The major change, other than the move to video, is that there is no theatrical distribution anymore. I was lucky. Everybody had so much invested in 16mm equipment that they were slow to move. But since I started in video, I had nothing to protect, so I slipped right in there while no one else was looking.

"I did expect that there would be more underground stuff. You go back to the early '60s, and it was all underground, shot by people who had a little equipment and accessibility to a lab, and they'd get two friends and make a movie. And I thought that would happen again with video. Maybe people are swapping videos, the 'look what we did at

my house last night' kind of thing, and that probably has more to do with what people are interested in than the stuff that all the studios are putting out. So there's less of an industry. But you don't need an industry to do it for your own satisfaction, and that's where most of the best stuff came from.

"There have been legal changes. I won't ship to several states. I won't put children or animals or rape or bondage in my videos. I have my limits. But that's not a legal or consensual thing. It's just my own taste. I don't want to put a movie out that I couldn't defend some way or another, at least in my own mind.

"Where's it going? I personally have had to reinvent sex for myself and what I think is sexy. It was the combination of AIDS and turning 40. Do I want to keep making these things? If I can enjoy them.

"So that's a question right now. I don't know if I can. I reached a point where everything just seemed to collapse. But I have hope for what's coming next. I have some ideas—they just could get brutal. This may be a reflection on how I've felt, although I feel better now, but maybe it's time to go back and investigate how terribly dark and ugly that period was.

"In *Wild Side* there's a whole speech, a litany, all about AIDS. I'm saying, 'How can we stop ourselves?' and that was in 1984. I still can't stop myself. We're six years later now, and I don't know. I don't think it's my job to know. It's my job to investigate and present it. It's somebody else's job to know.

"Continuing to work on it helps work it out. If you give up on sexuality, it'll eat you up."

★ ★ ★

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Sex Press

(Continued from page 81)

porn and because "There are a lot of unoriginal people making decisions in this business." Two years later hair is in, and the buzzword is "Bear."

Following in Bear's sexy footsteps is *Hombres*, *All Latin Men* magazine which proves issue after issue that quality is not a thing of the past. Like Bear, *Hombres* men have to be seen to be believed, but equally important in these magazine's quotient for success is contact. Today's sex press gives its readers a platform to share what they know. It's sort of like the global village having an orgy in print.

The orgy has been challenged though, by the inactive but appealing child pornography protection act that would have or might require publishers to keep

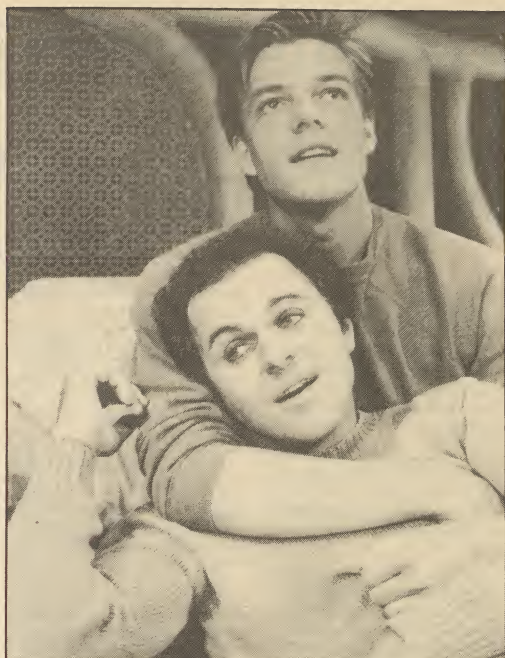
on file records of nude model's age at the time of the photographing. Luckily, it was ruled unconstitutional, but it could still complicate any attempt to share knowledge we need to survive.

"It's a thinly veiled attempt to censor the industry masquerading as child protection," said a representative for *Hombres*.

For now, the industry waits.

Technology seems to be the answer to all the ifs of the future. Software already exists that could move magazines out of print circulation and into the computers where they could be distributed via the already-in-place network of gay computer bulletin board services' modems. They won't censor the phones.

For information about Newsex or any of the new magazines listed, please write Newsex, 2215R Market St., #505, San Francisco, CA 94114



Bruce Toms and P.J. Benjamin in Harvey Fierstein's Tony Award winning play, *Torch Song Trilogy*.

Gay Theatre

(Continued from page 88)

In Cal Yeoman's *Richmond Jim* (Theatre Rhinoceros, 1979), a young country boy is debauched when he falls into Manhattan's world of tricking, leather and S&M—a variation on the popular theme of gay life's corruption of innocents. Charles Lawrence's *My Fat Friend* (1974) is the story of a fag hag whose attempts to slim down are sabotaged by her gay "friends." Finally, the elitism and insularity of the gay ghetto is denounced in Bob Ost's *Breeders*, produced in New York in 1979.

By far the mainstay of the late-'70s gay theatre, however, were plays about relationships—or, perhaps more accurately, about the unlikelihood of relationships. These nearly archetypal plays might be summed up as light-hearted comedies about tricking, but they belong chiefly to the Age of Repartee.

Generally set in the tasteful walk-ups/garden apartments/summer cottages of gay New York, the Repartee plays typically showed gay men to be vain, fickle, bitchy, and aesthetically sophisticated but emotionally shallow. Gay men were, however, screamingly witty, and were always ready with the mordant bon mot.

The casts invariably included several exceptionally handsome boys; at some point in the course of the play at least one of them (and maybe more) would have occasion to remove his shirt (and maybe more). Sexuality, in other words, was the play's currency—in all three senses of the word. It was the electricity, the medium of exchange, and the very latest thing. Doric Wilson's *A Perfect Relationship*, Robert Patrick's *T Shirts*, and Terry Miller's *Pines '79* (the quintessential Fire Island comedy) are representative.

The search (usually futile) for Mr. Right was a common sub-theme in these plays, though it occasionally blossomed into the major subject. In Philip Real's *Breathing Room* (Theatre Rhinoceros, 1977), for example, Sean and Tony meet in a bar and go home together for sex. Afterward, Sean presses for a second date, but Tony is non-committal.

When Mr. Right *did* appear, he often brought along neurotic entanglements, emotional entrapment and complicated sexual victimizations. Gay love's dangerous symbioses were explored in *Final Exams* (Ken Eulo, 1977), and again in Richard Taylor's *Harry and Larry* (1977), in which two men appear to fall in love but actually wind up one another's captives.

Gay men's ambivalence regarding intimate relationships found its counterpoint in many lesbian plays of the time, including *Patience and Sarah*, Jane Staab's *December to May* (Playwrights Horizons, 1977), in which a man's wife comes out and falls in love with his more-than-receptive mistress, and many of the popular works of Jane Chambers.

These plays, in which women fall into committed coupledness at a pace approaching the speed of sound, are perhaps as dated today as are men's sex farces. Nevertheless, their significance is that they represented the gay situation as lesbians and gay men apparently wanted it to be depicted on stage. These were the positive images gay audiences had demanded, and they brought with them problems and limitations all their own. ▼



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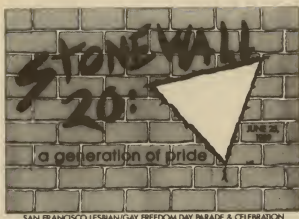
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by Marv. Shaw

Sure, there were gay books before Stonewall, some of them truly significant, like Radclyffe Hall's *Well of Loneliness*, Gore Vidal's *City and the Pillar*, and Charles Jackson's *Fall of Valor*. But when gay liberation definitely took hold, our writing really burgeoned. So much came off the presses that, now, choosing the best of the last 20 years is a daunting task.

So I have proceeded by the primary standards of good writing and lasting value. Basically, that second criterion means that a book has maintained importance beyond its season. Also, I have tried to include all genre. The only exception is drama, which seemed to me to be appropriately placed in the performing arts. I settled on 15 because 10 seemed a bit limited and 20 possibly excessive to the point of redundancy.

While this list is certainly mine, I gratefully acknowledge

the suggestions made by Richard Labonte, bookseller; Richard Hall, novelist; and Clayton Lane, sociologist. Forthwith—the list:

A Single Man by Christopher Isherwood. Coming like a herald just the year before Stonewall, this novel by one of the bravest of our progenitors limns the gay male persona through the life of one man in one day. A tour de force as powerful now as then.

The Journal of Homosexuality edited by John De Cecco. A book that grows—now in its 19th volume. The book is a multifaceted record of what scholarship is demonstrating about us.

A Boy's Own Story by Edmund White. The classic coming out story sensitively told by one of our more polished stylists.

Gay American History by Jonathan Katz. This monumental study goes right back to source material from the deep past to show the 400-year conflict

between homosexuals and American society, with such surprising inclusions as Ralph Waldo Emerson's crush on a fellow undergraduate at Harvard.

Men on Men edited by George Stambolian. A great harvest of short gay male fiction with a careful balance between new and familiar voices, plus good geographic distribution. A series of sharp spotlights on our lives.

Christianity, Social Tolerance, and Homosexuality by John Boswell. This extraordinary social history traces and analyzes European attitudes toward homosexuality from early in the Christian era to the later Medieval time, when intolerance began to dominate.

Gay Spirit—Myth and Meaning by Mark Thompson. A truly rich anthology or perspectives on ourselves by (mostly) brilliant thinkers, all intent on both new frontiers and deeper insights.

The Male Couple by David McWhirter and Andrew Mattison. The central thesis is the seven stages of development of a gay male union. Whether that is your experience or not, this book has abundant insights into mating.

Dancer from the Dance by Andrew Holleran. The New York gay scene of the '70s—intense, hedonistic, narcissistic, presented in an elegant, wry, sometimes humorous style.

And the Band Played On by Randy Shilts. Now and far into the future the definitive book on how AIDS became the monster we all know. Time and further developments are proving Shilts dead right on many of his contentions, including the unpopular ones.

Love Alone: Eighteen Elegies for Rog by Paul Monette. Probably the premiere single poetic work to come out of gay life in the latter quarter century: an aching-

ly compassionate record of the passing of the beloved.

Oscar Wilde by Richard Ellman. Though Ellman's insistence on Wilde's having syphilis is not corroborated, all else in this biography makes it the giant of its kind.

Loving Someone Gay by Don Clark. A warm, clear, sensible representation of the nature of gay people, distinguished by its capacity to encourage empathy from straights.

Homosexualities by Alan Bell and Martin Weinberg. A wide-ranging, comprehensive study revealing the tremendous diversity of life styles among gay people, based on 1,500 interviews. Here we all are!

Memory Board by Jane Rule. A very real domestic novel of lesbians in the family, with generational and other differences making the drama. ▼

'Fallen Angels' Falls

Fallen Angels: The Lives and Untimely Deaths of 14 Hollywood Beauties
by Kirk Crivello, Citadel Press, \$18.95

by Ron Larsen

For every struggling actress who makes it big in Hollywood, there are thousands who don't, or who fade fast after basking briefly in the limelight. *Fallen Angels* chronicles the lives of over a dozen doomed divas who came close to celluloid stardom, only to have their flames snuffed out.

"Their facades cracked," author Kirk Crivello writes, "leaving them splintered like glass in drugs, alcohol, scandal, misguided passion, suicide and even murder."

Crivello portrays his hapless heroines as victims of the Hollywood dream machine, claiming that their lives were "wrecked by Hollywood, driven to despair by the obliterating glare of fame and, for some, the fear that this glare was vanishing."

In dissecting the careers of these so-called "Hollywood Cinderella Girls," Crivello goes straight for the stuff that tabloid headlines are made of: alcoholism and drug addiction; public brawls and private demons; failed marriages and illicit love affairs; drownings, decapitations and other freak accidents; stabings, strangulations and ritualistic murders.

Many of the clay-footed goddesses spotlighted in *Angels* were insecure, chronically depressed women bent on self-destruction. As such, they tried just about every form of suicide imaginable, whether by sleeping pills, slashed wrists, asphyxiation, bullets in the head, or leaps off tall buildings and even taller billboards.

One of Tinsel Town's earliest casualties, 24-year-old Peg Entwistle, ended it all in 1932 when she climbed atop the 50-foot

"Hollywoodland" sign on Mount Lee and leapt to her death from the letter "H."

In all *Fallen Angels* encompasses 14 tales of woe, plus the "shattered dreams" of some 50 more actresses, for a total body count of 64. Talk about OD'ing on Tragedy! It's all very maudlin, depressing, and dead-end dull—a classic case of overkill. After the fourth or fifth chapter, the "sameness" of both the material and the presentation becomes so monotonous that all the subjects start to blur together, making it hard for the reader to distinguish between one fallen angel and another.

His purple prose notwithstanding, Crivello is neither a particularly gifted wordsmith nor a very compelling storyteller. Most problematic of all is his superficial approach to the subject: instead of giving some insights into the women behind the facades, he settles for bare-boned biographies and thumbnail sketches, a perfunctory recitation of the facts accompanied by a filmography for each of his ill-fated beauties. Crivello insists on embalming the cadavers after conducting post-mortems on their foundering careers and unhappy personal lives. The result is an extended wake during which the reader is hard pressed to stay awake, much less shed a tear for the deceased.

Focusing on actresses who have been "somewhat overlooked by other film historians," Crivello excludes the oft-told tales of such tragic figures as Jean Harlow, Frances Farmer and Judy Garland. Yet, for some unexplained reason, he devotes entire chapters to Natalie Wood, Jayne Mansfield and, most notably, Marilyn Monroe,

rehashing the familiar saga of Hollywood's most celebrated sex symbol. Countless books have already been written about Monroe, and Crivello's 32-page account of her life contains nothing you haven't read a hundred times before.

Diana Barrymore, Gail Russell and a host of other hard-luck cases contained in this book fall into the classic Hollywood syndrome of too much, too soon. Bedeviled by the pressures of instant stardom and fleeting fame, these earthbound angels sought escape through booze, drugs and all manner of dangerous liaisons.

Among the more memorable stories are those of Inger Stevens, the wholesome star of TV's *The Farmer's Daughter* who committed suicide after star-crossed

affairs with Bing Crosby and Anthony Quinn—and an interracial marriage she kept secret until her death . . . Carole Landis, the much-married sexpot who had a lesbian fling with novelist Jacqueline Susann and who ended her life in the midst of an adulterous affair with the then-married Rex Harrison . . . Susan Ball, the gallant and courageous starlet whose career was cut short by cancer, which led to the amputation of one of her legs and, ultimately, to her death at age 22 . . . Jean Seberg, the all-American girl who was plucked from a small town in Iowa to star in Otto Preminger's screen version of *Saint Joan*, a disastrous film debut from which she never recovered . . . and Susan Peters, the fragile beauty who was left paralyzed by

a tragic hunting accident and who succumbed to anorexia nervosa after seeing her career fizzle and her marriage crumble.

Fallen Angels tries hard to duplicate the dubious appeal and success of Kenneth Anger's two *Hollywood Babylon* books, but it's not nearly as well written or half as much fun. At \$18.95, this slipshod collection of movieand biographies shortchanges its readers while exploiting the troubled lives of some 60 victims of the Hollywood dream machine, all of whom deserve better treatment than they get at the hands of Crivello. His 282-page book includes 16 pages of black-and-white photos, but that's small compensation for the literary void that surrounds them. ▼



Dangerous Lesbians: Thoroughly Absorbing

After Delores

by Sarah Schulman, New American Library, 1989, 158 pp., \$7.95.

by Noreen C. Barnes

...Confusion and violence defined the world in which I was living as well as the world that was living inside of me.

Sarah Schulman dedicates her novel *After Delores* in part "to the memory of Jean Genet" and much of her disturbing, quirky, erotic book reads like a Lower East Side lesbian *Querelle*. Her observations of the intense urban existence of her nameless protagonist—and those of the women who move sporadically, dangerously, in and out of her life—blue the edges between naturalism and surrealism in a very theatrical way, all the while penetrating the hard core of truth of live in the Big Apple.

The narrator, a coffee-shop waitress, is obsessed with a woman named Delores, who abandoned her for a *Vogue* photographer. She tries to find diversion in drinking, other women, and dreams of revenge, when a gun comes into her possession, left behind by a Priscilla Presley imitator, as well as an answering machine, stolen by Punkette, a 16-year-old murder victim.

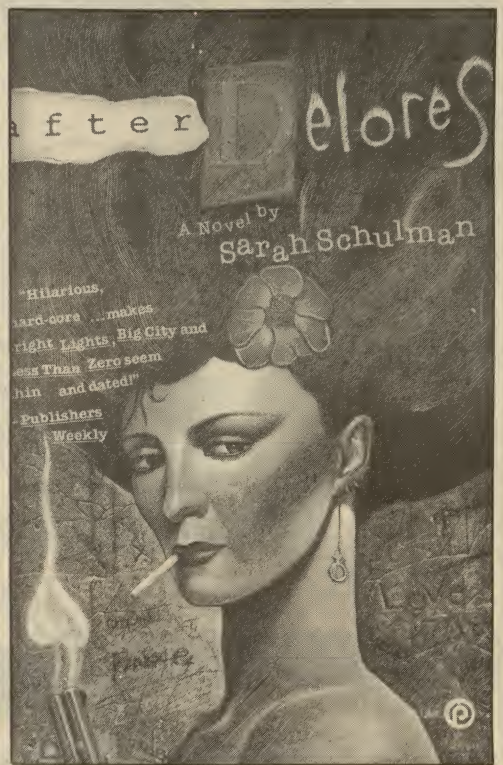
The girl's death snaps her out of depression and into action, and on the trail of a murderer, she is led to Charlotte and Beatriz, lovers who are an actor and director. The drama of their lives reflects that which they create onstage, and they are perhaps in part modeled after some of the real-life women who are

associated with the Village's well-known lesbian performance space, the WOW Cafe. (Schulman is also a playwright, and is no doubt very familiar with WOW and its work/personnel.)

Schulman's heroine is occasionally accompanied by Coco, a wild hairdresser who is seemingly spontaneous, but actually very studied in her story-telling—adept at creating her own theatre. They move from the bars and clubs, to the streets and parks, to the protagonist's candle-filled apartment. *Babel* is the only holding in her personal library, testament to her belief that "the only thing that happened in the last two decades that made any sense to me at all was Patti Smith."

Her urban angst and irony resonates throughout. One neighborhood projects "a special kind of neglect that felt like sabotage." Of her present state, she quips, "If I had money, I would have gone to a decent psychiatric hospital, but instead I was just another pathetic person on the Lower East Side." Of spring, it "can be the best time in the city because it's so emotional, but some years it only lasts a day."

By turns brilliant, violent, funny and full of life-on-the-edge language that is at once caustic and poetic, *After Delores* is a



unique, thoroughly absorbing work that assaults the senses and

sensibility in a very satisfying way.

Hello In There—Goodbye

The Zombie Pit

by Sam D'Allessandro; The Crossing Press; \$6.95

by Marv. Shaw

It's all too easy to romanticize the artist who comes on with a terrific flair in a few creations—and then dies young. Promise becomes loss—or a kind of indefinite suspension, leaving the intrigued to wonder what masterpiece might have blazed forth if only the guy had lived. Such speculation can gain substance only from what he has left behind. D'Allessandro has left us 110 pages of shorter and longer pieces that suggest some things.

Before he died of AIDS at 31 in early 1988, D'Allessandro grew through a California childhood and youth, got a B.A. in psychology at University of California Santa Cruz, traveled a lot, in part as a travel agent, and nurtured his artistry through poetry and performance to the eleven stories in this volume. That legacy must tell us all we will ever know, but there is also some help from Steve Abbott, who is the loving mentor left behind.

Basically, D'Allessandro's fiction is a cluster of psychological extremities rendered in lean poetry. Ironically, some of the extremities are really commonplace experiences. The first story, "Lenny," and the last one, "1960," illustrate best. "Lenny" is about a pickup and the sex following it. Inexperienced, scared Sam doesn't understand why Lenny chooses him, but in the coupling that follows, he accepts it as right, as Lenny closes his eyes to sink into the experience. The compacted actions and sensations make this terse little tale both extraordinary and real.

"1960" is a story of childhood, of the irrational defeats and rewards that start "a plague of confusions [which] has followed me ever since." The confusions of the stories between those two are a compound of being rootless in one's 20s, careening with and off various others, and exploring relationships, often masochistic, with himself and others of both sexes.

Two of the longer stories have that combination and also show D'Allessandro's particular talent for making the bizarre live. In "Giovanni's Apartment" the narrator leaves behind all of his former identity, submerging himself in half of Giovanni's life. His only other link to the world is a dwarf salesgirl from a five and dime. "The Zombie Pit" is a wild bar in which the patrons perform, with insane routines, like the woman who holds fruit between her breasts and then thrusts herself on others. The episodes in the bar are set within Sam's life elsewhere—everywhere and everything else being just as exhibitionistic as "The Zombie Pit."

D'Allessandro's stuff often resembles William Burroughs'. "The Zombie Pit" and some other works are much like Burroughs' "Hassan's Rumpus Room" in *The Naked Lunch*.

Inevitably—at least for those of us who have been around a while—"Giovanni's Apartment" reminds us of James Baldwin's novel *Giovanni's Room*. But Baldwin had his lovers try to redo the room to make it their own, while D'Allessandro's Giovanni simply subtracts furnishings steadily, a parallel with the growing vacancy in the narrator's psyche.

Abbott, in an afterword, marvels at the great growth in D'Allessandro's talent in the five years of their friendship. Because Abbott was, in a sense, "present at the creation" because he saw and heard so much of D'Allessandro's work in the process, he can certainly make that statement. However, all the pieces here share so much that one wonders if further development would have occurred. It is just as likely that a kind of splendid stasis would have set in, and D'Allessandro would have continued producing arresting fiction, which is freakish but human, bizarre but real, in a style both lean and evocative—but little different from these 11.

Lawrence's Sexuality Remains a Mystery

T.E. Lawrence: The Selected Letters

edited by Malcolm Brown, W.W. Norton, \$27.50.

by Frank Howell

"For my own part, I wonder if he may not live longest in literature through his letters."

—Basil Liddell Hart

"It has indeed been said that he would have survived... if only as a letter writer."

—Sir Ronald Storrs in The Dictionary of National Biography

It is sometimes relaxing to browse through the collected correspondence of noted personalities. You feel as though you are eavesdropping on their most intimate thoughts.

Lawrence is a case in point. He gained fame in his own time during the First World War because of his exploits with the Arabs and the first-hand reporting of Lowell Thomas. Years later the film *Lawrence of Arabia* rekindled his reputation.

Lawrence was reputed to be a skilled letter writer, and this collection of his thousands of pieces of personal expression consumes more than 500 pages.

The documents cover his full life span, the war years (1914-1918), his time in India (1927-1929), until his untimely death in a motorcycle accident in 1935.

Malcolm Brown, a devoted Lawrence scholar, has co-authored *A Touch of Genius: The Life of T.E. Lawrence* and has

also produced two BBC documentaries on his legendary subject.

The sexuality of our desert hero has long left a trail of hint and speculation. During the 1930s the original publication of his intimate thoughts saw the light of day, but they were edited and controlled by his brother, M.R. Lawrence, a devoted medical missionary to China. Naturally, many private revelations were censored or destroyed. Malcolm Brown has carefully restored many of the controversial writings.

Another bit of fun can be experienced when scanning this monumental pile of spontaneous literature. We want to know his private yearnings. Was he straight, gay or did he exhibit overt fondness for the German shepherd down the hall?

T.E. was occasionally quite frank about his leanings. Apparently he was neither fish nor fowl, if we can believe such a declaration. To quote our hero of the desert, "I haven't ever and I don't much want it... I couldn't ever do it, I believe: the impulse strong enough to make me touch another creature has not yet been born in me."

And one of his brothers, A.W. Lawrence, observed, "No one who knew him or worked with him ever believed him to be homosexual."

In a letter to E.M. Forster,

author of *Maurice*, he bluntly acknowledges that, "The Turks, as you probably know... did it to me by force, and since then I have gone about whimpering to myself, 'unclean, unclean!'"

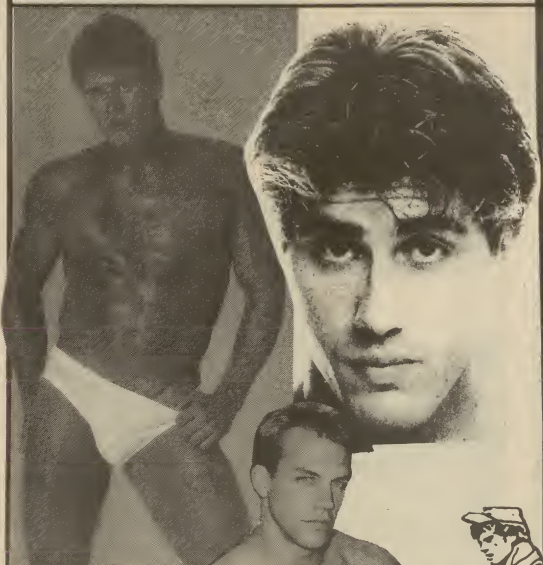
In another epistle to Forster, Lawrence briefly refers to the British writer's short story, *Dr. Woolcott*, a ghost tale that he greatly admired. (It was finally published a year after Forster's death.) It essentially contains a homosexual theme. Otherwise, we gain the impression that Lawrence seldom ever mentioned gay love.

In the late 1920s he was posted to India, but one doesn't often hear of his time spent here. He didn't like India much, and after becoming involved in a minor spy controversy Lawrence returned to England.

T.E. is known primarily for two major books, *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom* and *Revolt in the Desert*. But his letters will certainly endure. He wrote to a number of notables in his day, including Winston Churchill, Lady Astor, Noel Coward, George Bernard Shaw and endless messages to Shaw's wife.

The letters are as close as we will probably ever get to Lawrence, and if one is a fan of this enigmatic man, they are probably worth the time to browse through. But his sexuality will no doubt remain a mystery for the ages.

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Festival AIDS Videos Will Shake You Up

by Steve Dambach

Long before AIDS, history had already taught us that we are responsible for recording and preserving our history as a people. No one else could do it so well or would want to do it accurately. That was part of the Stonewall fight—to protect the right to tell our own stories from our point of view.

Now, in this compressed moment as time accelerates toward the end of the century, we are more responsible for ourselves than ever. It is more important than ever that we record us now so that history can look at us as we are, and that that documentation get worldwide distribution so it becomes a part of world consciousness; also, because Bush cronies have already tried censoring films at the border.

Fortunately, some of the documentation that is happening around the world as people with AIDS and people fighting AIDS are speaking their truths for posterity in books, on recorded autobiographies, and for the cameras are available as videos at this year's San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. These are portraits of urgency. Forceful documentation—proof—of how we are fighting, caring and dying.

Response to AIDS, the first program of the festival's afternoon-long look at us and AIDS, (Roxie Cinema, Friday, June 23, 1 p.m.) begins with Arl Spencer Nadel's six-minute look at a subject close to home. *The Golden Gate Bridge Blockade* is

told in terms of its straight media perception (something of a measure of success for ACT UP) and from the eyes of the people putting it on the line on the bridge.

Perhaps the most dramatic and effective AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power hit ever is documented in Ellen Spiro's *ACT UP at the FDA*. For 13 minutes feel the impact of the day the queens and dykes and friends stopped the Food and Drug Administration cold. Reagan got run up the flagpole, windows were broken, and PWAs were manhandled off the prison buses as AIDS activism focused everything it had in a one-day fever pitch show of force. It worked.

The historic second March on Washington, a year before the FDA action, is the subject of Barbara Jabally's *Half a Million Strong*. Getting the numbers right was just the start for this brief look at the weekend that was, which tightly covers the major events of Oct. 10-12, 1987, in 28 minutes. See what you missed, or if you know the phenomenon, feel that good, that sad, that connected all over again. It's a good place to see yourself.

Jabally's second video, *A Candlelight Vigil*, is a reminder that we're not all in the same place about these issues and that the examples of New York and San Francisco really are models for the rest of the world.

And nothing could underscore AIDS as a pandemic more than *Risk Group*, a Soviet documentary frankly dealing with AIDS in



Peter Sieglar in *Right to Fight: Everyday Life with AIDS*.

Russia. Here, the Russian surgeon general admits his country has prostitutes, homosexuals and drug addicts, something officially denied until the pandemic forced their hand.

Director A. Nikishin uses this new openness to explore these communities he doesn't know. Ultimately, a portrait is painted of a people reluctantly coming

forward because of AIDS. (For another view of gay soviet life see *Urinal* director John Greyson's *Russia Does Not Believe in Queers* at the Roxie, 7 p.m., Saturday, June 24.

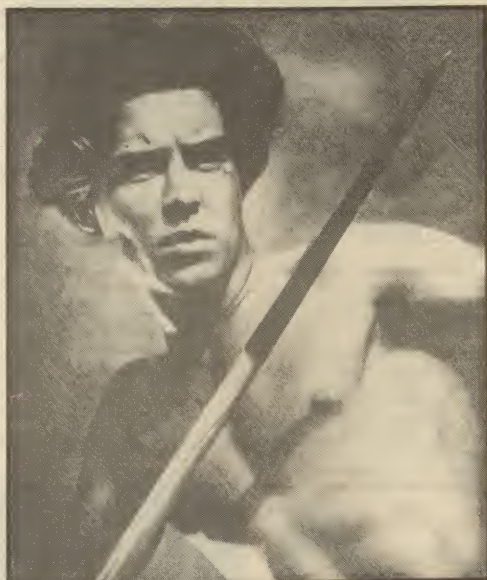
Three "Care Giving Videos" make up the second part of this day of documentation (3:30 p.m., Roxie Cinema, Friday, June 23). Each is a recording of the

automatic response of open hearts when people living with AIDS have to have help. Friends and strangers connect in a new system of care, the support network is strengthened by the unselfishness of many lesbians, and what it means to be a family gets reinvented. Aside from documenting some of the warriors on both side of the virus, *A Girl's Best Friend*, *Finding Our Way Together* and *Family Values* also discuss the process it is to work with people approaching death.

That process is further explored in the personal testimonies of two film artists' last film projects. In *A Yearning for Sodom* Fassbinder player Kurt Raab appears to record his last performance in an empty movie house. Shot while he was well enough, this scene is violently dramatized by later footage shot up to his death documenting the unwelcome changes caused by AIDS.

The same is true for Peter Sieglar's continued life documentation, *The Right to Fight*, which begins two-and-a-half years after diagnosis. A sequel to *I'm Still Alive*, one of the first films about dealing with life after being diagnosed with AIDS, *The Right to Fight*, says Sieglar in the video, "is about living with AIDS." In the way panels of the Quilt are made to honor lives, these men have made final statements for history to watch and remember.

These videos are all hard to make it through. Bring support if you can't lean on strangers. Then again, in this time there are no strangers. ▼



Desire, a documentary about the German sexual liberation movement in the early part of this century, will be shown Saturday, June 24, 4:30 p.m., at the Castro Theatre.

Early Sexual Liberation

by Steve Dambach

As will connects to nature the triumph of the spirit becomes a colossus against which thinking society historically pits force. So it was when Nazi Germany rose to power and put down the established naturalist, homosexual and body cult movements of the early 20th century.

Only now is the extent of the Nazi oppression of homosexual people and people living beyond

the classic definitions of male and female coming to light.

It must have been joy to have culture linked so closely with nudism and to have sexuality in general as a given to be encouraged, expressed and explored. (Castro Theater, Saturday, June 24, 4:30 p.m., with A.I.D.S.C.R.E.A.M., which was selected by the Whitney Museum for the AIDS Media: Counterrepresentations Program.) ▼

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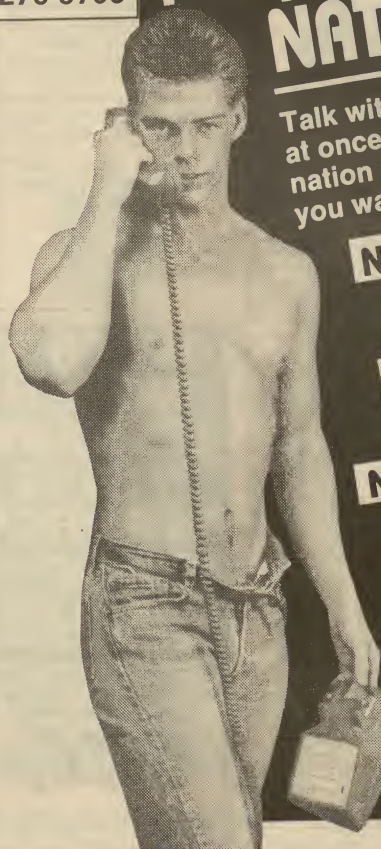
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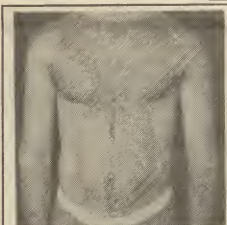
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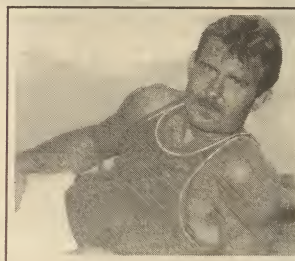
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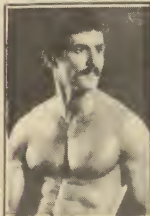
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Full Relaxing, Sensual, Erotic
Massage by a Hot-Looking Guy.
call 775-4771, 24 hours. E29

Fullbody Massage by Nude Body-
builder, 36, 5'5", 42"c, 16"a.
Older men welcome fine body
\$40 In/Out. Don 441-2584. E27

Full-Body Tantric Massage. Down-
town In Only \$30. Hermann the
German 885-4813. E25

Big Strong Hands — Big Smile
KEN
SENSUAL SWEDISH MASSAGE
CIVIC CENTER
Bodybuilder, jock strapper, 6ft,
190, European country man, hung
Play it safe! 1 hr, 40/60, 24 Hrs.
864-1836

Sensual, Masterful Firm Touch us-
ing Oil Table in a Warm Studio.
\$28-1 1/2 hrs., \$40-2 hrs.
861-2925 Bruce. E25

Deep-tissue, Swedish full-body
erotic massage by young blond
BB trainer. Jeff, \$40 in/out,
550-6833. cert. E25

Gay Pride Week's
FOR YOUR BODY
Full Body Energy Tune-Up Dis-
count w/O.O.T. I.D. call Morris
626-8665. E25

Massage

Young, Hung &
Macho
pleasurably
affectionate
Call Me 1st
Buddy
221-9943

CHECK IT OUT!

Extraordinary full-body
massage in comfortable
Castro studio by sensitive,
goodlooking 28-year-old.

DAVID, 648-1413

Serious/Experienced/Personable
Reasonable Rates/In Only

Experiencing "Corporate Burnout"?

Relax...Relax...Relax
during this 90 min.
"Hot Oil" massage
combining Shiatsu &
Acupressure
techniques
\$45 In/\$75 Out
9 a.m.- 11 p.m.
John Polozzo, CMT/Rebirther
255-6263

Nurturing

- Swedish
- Acupressure
- Rebirthing

Christopher
255-5964



SPORTS MASSAGE



A superb massage by a beautiful black body-
builder that is deep, penetrating, stimulating,
and yet relaxing, sensual, subtly erotic and
nurturing. Loving hands and energy from a
man who loves the male body and who is
well trained and experienced.

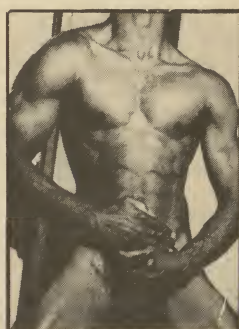
Veet Sandeha
9 a.m.-9 p.m. Cert. Lisc.
1 1/2 hrs. \$50 in/\$60 out
621-3637 PWAs welcome

HOT HANDS

Swedish Hot Oil Massage



Certified/Deep Tissue/Acupressure
Apts: 2-10 pm \$40/session
Indoor/Outdoor Massage &
Open Air Shower
JOE 415/282-6929
Off-street parking available

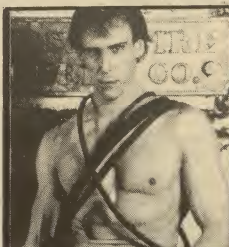


For a sensual massage • in/out
Call Dick 255-0730

Massage

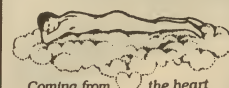
SPORTS MASSAGE
JEFF GIBSON
626-7095 \$40

Excellent massage by swimmer/
runner/cyclist. For aches and
pains, injuries, or just to relax!
These experienced hands have
worked with athletes at the Cal-
gary Olympics and Boston Mar-
athon. Certified. Member A.M.T.A.



Sophisticated Physical Energy
SENSUAL MASSAGE
By Appt./Out Max 861-7020

CLOUD 9



Coming from the heart

Massage by attractive,
friendly man \$25/in
Dennis (415) 255-2839

SAN JOSE MASSAGE
Swedish (408) 356-7384 Geno E27

*** Experience ***
How much better you move and
feel after a deep/gentle thoroughly
relaxing massage by a friendly,
certified masseur. Neil 563-6910. E30

MARC



Dark Blond, Green Eyes,
Cert. Masseur avail. for
Massage, Modeling, Escort
415-922-1812

RELAX IN CLASS

A RELAXING MASSAGE
by a handsome, masculine blond,
6', 190, beautifully nude
muscular body, summer tan.
Firm, Erotic Swedish Massage
Massage Lotion & Table, Hard to Beat It
\$45 In/\$60 Out 75 mins.
Mike 931-0149 24 hrs.

RELAX!

Sensual Swedish/Shiatsu Massage
You deserve a loving massage
Peter 864-5483

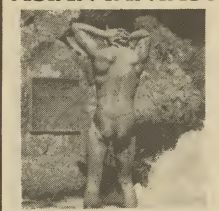
HIGH STRENGTH MASSAGE

Deep tissue work for men
who work out—Phillip
864-5566

MAD MAX II

Certified Swedish Massage
by brainy, brawny young man,
MEL GIBSON looks \$45/90 min.
Deutsche gesprochen/Francais parle
775-2670

ASIAN FANTASY



Massage
TOM • Out Only
415-298-6255

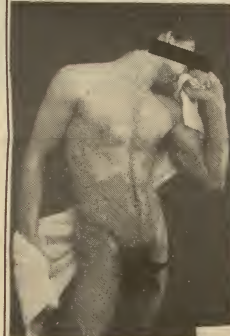
PERSONALIZED BODYWORK

Full body Swedish/Esalen and
athletic style oil massage. Gentle
to firm, tailored to your needs.
Soothing, deeply relaxing. Sen-
sitive athletic professional. Call
John 771-6533. \$40/session
(80 min.) E28

Downtown Massage
Tired of being handled like a piece
of meat? Try something comple-
tely different—a relaxing, sensual
massage in a quiet
relaxing atmosphere.
Frank, 441-4224. E25

Muscular Man lays back or gives
Rub Down. Bpr. 764-5343. E28

HOT PUERTO RICAN



MASSEUR 647-4423

So. Lake Tahoe
Handsome, Athletic
MASSEUR
(702) 588-5559

Be pampered for 90 min. My train-
ed hands will work your entire
body with hot oil. Deluxe
massage by a warm, caring man.
Anytime. Only \$35. Larry
621-8560 In. E25

SAN JOSE HUNK

6'1", 190, sexy, masc, gorgeous,
hot bod. (408) 559-7524 E30

Rob of S.F.
5'7", 135, 30, massage at its best
on a table. Men over 40. Relax.
586-1949. E25

Complete mass. by hndsmg guy.
Dwntwn SF 885-1558 Mark 24hr. E27

VISIT HEAVEN!

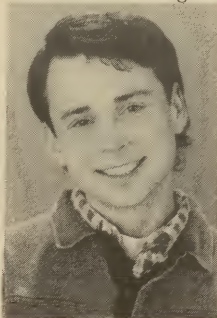


MIKE & JEFF
641-0780

B.A.R. PEOPLE & PERSONALS

Massage

Excellent Massage



\$45 • Danny 563-6750



Jose 27 Gdlk. \$35. 285-4875

Complete sensual massage. Vidal, 285-5889. Out only.

Short stop to release. Get int. massage by 3 young, goodlooking Asians. Call Lon or Nam or Mike, 788-0380.

A dream-come-true massage by a handsome muscular bodyworker. David 552-0473.

COLON CLEANSING
"Spring Cleaning"
681-4828

Great Hands. Cert. 552-4009
5 yrs exp'd. Swedish.

Hot Oil Massage by Italian Bodybuilder. Gino 861-0294

Tall, blond X-handsome, BB 6'3", very defined. Certified, professional, sensual, 8 yrs experience. 9am-10pm, Bill 626-6210

Italian Masseur 861-0294

Massage in Downtown SF by Mature, Healthy, Caring Massage School Instructor. Experience a Man's Massage, Strong but Sensitive to your needs. Jim 928-5869, after 5:30 p.m.

HUSKY GUY

College student gives sensual massage to men 18 to 60. Call Steve, 864-6155 evenings and weekends

"A CONDOM OR A CASKET"

ASIAN MASSEUR IN
E. Bay relaxes you with Slow Gentle Healing Touch. \$40 in/ \$50 out. Bill 763-7315.

NUDE HOT HANDSOME
Full Body Satisfaction.
David \$40. 550-8616.

EXCELLENCE

is what I strive to achieve in life, and my complete, full-body, erotic massage is no exception! I'm a well-built, very handsome blond BB. \$40 in/out. Kevin, 864-1190

WHEN ONLY THE BEST WILL DO!!!

Smooth, Trim, Musc., Hung 8' & Thick. Handsome, Friendly, Affectionate Masseur gives you ALL THE EXTRAS! Many Satisfied Repeats. Near Church/Market. In/Out. Major Hotels OK, Visa/M.C. Special afternoon rates available. Call J.J. 985-9871

★ STAR QUALITY ★

Yng., masc., musc., intel. Jeff Stryker type. Certified, sensitive, sophisticated. \$45. Convenient location + parking. 255-9106

Choose me! I'm young, handsome & ready to please! Monty. 861-1362. 24 hrs.

PROSTATE MESSAGE
"Feel the Difference"
John 681-4828

Hot Blond Stripper/Swimmer
Nick \$50 kinky 255-6433

San Jose — Swedish Massage \$25/hr-in. (Shower avail.) \$35/1½ hr. Certified. Anthony (408) 288-6169.

Big, Beautiful, Built Bodybuilder. Best Bodyworker Beyond Belief. Brad 861-1805

HEAVENLY HANDS



(415) 928-2195

WILLING

NUDE, EROTIC MASSAGE
By Handsome Bodyworker
\$45 in, Out Available
Call Joe 863-5672 Daily

Total body experience 621-8560

\$25 Special Introductory
Ted, CMT, 922-4956, 11-11pm

BODY ELECT. STUDENT
\$25 Introductory Special
SF Appointments 923-1131

MUSCULAR HEALTHY
Italian man uses various techniques to offer total relaxation. Michael 255-7417

SERIOUS MESSAGE
Unwind and release tension with a deep massage by Steve. Call my beeper 764-4105.

REAL HOT MAN

5'11", 170#, black hair, blue eyes, goodlooking BB, massage. Call Jim, 558-9688. • Certified •

EFFECTIVE MESSAGE

—Gets the knots out—

Deep Tissue Work
Tightness associated with exercise a specialty.

Castro location John
\$45 • 1½ hr. 863-0223

TOM

ADVENTURESOME

Built tight, muscular & hung. Blond man, 32, 6', 190 lbs. Very friendly guys over 30 preferred. Sensual massage in the buff. \$45 in/\$60 out 24 hrs.

567-4572

Massage

Amma Shiatsu & Foot Reflexology



- Relax your body and clear blocked energy paths. No oils are used, and full nudity isn't required. One hour — \$30
- Or how about a soothing foot massage? Feel rejuvenated while cleaning toxins from your body. 40 min — \$30
- Or have a combination 80 min — \$40

Comfortable Potrero Hill location — Easy parking, and on the #19 and #48 MUNI lines.
Call for an appointment today — You Deserve It!!!
285-6699 In/Out
Peter J. Hopkins — Certified, Reliable
Hypnosis Available for Habit Control

SPACE OUT

call MORRIS
\$35/1hr+ 626-8665

La Dolce Vita . . . Handsome masseur has sweet, sensual touch! David, 861-1362. In/Outs

IF IT FEELS GOOD DO IT!

My massage feels good
Keith 255-8261

ASIANS ONLY
Full body massage
Student discount
922-3817

JUAN-CARLOS

Regular Swedish/Shiatsu Massage
Private Potrero Hill Studio

Discounts for Morning Appts.
Repeats, and PWAs

State Certified

285-9318 • pgr. #896-8550

Great complete massage by versatile CMT with strong yet sensual touch. E. Bay. \$35/75 min. Greg. 547-1364.

Rick, handsome masseur, 27, 6'3", 170lbs, blond/blue, GQ looks, \$45 hr. 647-9745

Gay Pride Week Out-of-Towner's Discount w/L.D. Complete sensual massage. Gary 681-2843. Noon-Mid.

CHOOSE ME

Certified Swedish Easlen massage with a nurturing, relaxing, sensual touch, plus Thumper professional body massage and Thermophore, heat pack. I'm caring, 27, gdlk, friendly, 100% involvement with you. Hours: 9a.m.-midnight. 335/hr. 345/1½ hr. Come meet with John, 285-4875

OAKLAND

Complete massage by Handsome man
Russ 655-5900

Double the pleasure! Skilled fun. Tony/Pete 864-5483. •

19 YEAR OLD

Great massage. Call Tim. Nob Hill area. \$45. 563-6750.

Swedish, Shiatsu 1 hr. \$20/in \$30/out. Nonsexual only. Paul, 928-6464. Certified.

CUTE & ROMANTIC

TEDDY BEAR
Hdsm & Masculine Latino Guy, 26, Smooth Swimmer's Build, 5'7", 140lbs, delicious buns, passionate & versatile. Let my hands relax & please you.

CARLOS 465-0231
\$45 in \$60 out 24 hrs.

HOT SHOT

I can do what a man does well. Strong, handsome face. Blond bisexual muscle 6'1", 205 lbs
Big meat, passionate eyes Intelligent and friendly, but dominant.
Safe, erotic massage.
I know you know it.
\$50/\$70 24 hrs Greg
441-4874

5'9", 170#, 43c, 30w, Italian HUNG 8 UNCUT



Massage or Company
626-8391

Erotic Full Body Massage
MIDWEST FARMBOY!
27 yrs, 5'11", 165 lbs. Gr/Br.
A Studfinder Man 995-4950

MARIN MESSAGE

Complete Full Body Deep Tissue.
Call Beeper 485-8376.

Bearded masseur, full body sensual massage, \$40 a session. Jim 864-2653.

Total relaxation
massage by Jim
626-6101 after 1 p.m.

TRIP TO ECSTASY!

Full body massage — buns & legs my specialty! Hot man, 6', 160# br/br moust. Call Russ anytime in/out 647-0944. \$40/50 cash — add \$5 for MC/VISA. Try me!

Simply,

SUPERB HANDS

18th & Noe. Certified. \$35
Jim 864-2430

TENSION RELEASE

Sensual, nurturing massage Experienced, goodlooking, professionally trained in Swedish, acupuncture, Tuina Melt in my hands. Treat yourself. Call Tom. 824-3649

YOU DESERVE IT



BE GOOD TO YOURSELF WITH MESSAGE
NYC LIC#9739 ROBERT 626-0667

Models & Escorts

★ Athletic Build ★

Well-defined, masculine, young & handsome, hung big & very safe.
Bud Beeper no. 764-5343
Guaranteed! Ask about it.

FANTASY MAN

BLOND BODYBUILDER

27 yrs old, 5'9", 165#, 42" c, 28" w, 15" a, 9" and thick, smooth tan skin, into all scenes!
Josh • 558-9163

HUNG STUD

Thick and Big
GUS (415)469-7221

Biggest 1 in 4 counties! The original "Big Mac" is back. 864-0538. Always on top.

MUSCLE MAN

6ft 28yr 215# bdy-bldr lays back 664-7156 24 hr.

Ecstasy in Marin
HOT BOY TOY
loves to please 257-5124

David, sexy, 5'8", 165lbs, 44c, 30w, 16a, 8"XX 995-4648

ROGER OF S.F.
Short, intelligent bodybuilder (5'7", 165 lbs, 42C, 29W, 16A, dynamite legs!), expert in sensual physical S&M, C&B work. Well equipped game room, creative mind. Dominant but level-headed, discreet, and absolutely safe.
(415) 864-5566

THE STALLION

Bpr # 337-3985

Steve, hairy, bearded, well hung man for hire, 37, 6'2", 185, 431-5974, 24 hrs.

VINNIE
"BOY"
\$100 • 626-9649 • \$100

SMOOTH, TANNED BLND
Bodybldr, 25 yrs, 5'9", 150#, 8" cut, a real hunk! Boyd, 550-6833

SERIOUS MUSCLE

Comp. BB new in town, 26 yr. 5'10", 210 lbs., 19"A, 49"C 31"W, 18"C, catalonian complexion. Hung \$80/in \$100/out Vince 788-2467

Hot-Blooded Buddy

Hot young stud. Super Endowed. Thick power tool. Rock-hard body. Low hangers. Vincent \$75 #415-MAN-8535

PAUL MUSCLE

48" c 31" w 18" a 626-3218

Bottom \$75 out 979-4262

8½ X-thick inches of manhood needs spit-shine. \$50. Hank. 861-7379.

6'4", 195#, hairy, ex-Army Sgt. Chuck 431-1579

TLC Massage by Luis, 27, Gdlk. After 9 p.m. \$65. 285-4875

ITALIAN DADDY

Hung and Hairy
239-8419

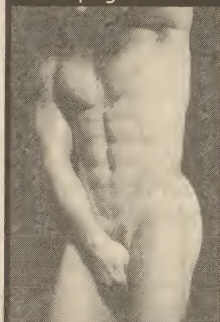
EX-FIREMAN

32, 5'10", 200lb. bear, Br/Br. 8" cut. Likes to lean back while you work his hose. \$80.
861-7931

B.A.R. PEOPLE & PERSONALS

Models & Escorts

Who ya gonna call?



DAVID 929-7336

LEATHER FFANTASY PLAYROOM

Tall, hot top enjoys FFA, safe kink, visual delight.

CHRISTOPHER
\$100 in 255-1018 \$120 out

"A CONDOM OR A CASKET"

TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT

I'm a hot young man—5'8½", 150lbs. It brn/hzl—with nice pecs and warm, playful buns. Open to fantasies, massage and more. I'm safe, discreet and extremely friendly.

621-8381

Head—for the best! In/out. Ask for B.J. 864-5483.

Hot and handsome, willing to play. 160lbs, brn hair, brn eyes, weight lifter's body. (415) 922-9360. Alex

Hot, erotic massage with a handsome 160lb brn hair brn eyed weightlifter (415) 922-9360 Tony

Foot slave search 863-6536/24hr

TOO BIG FOR MOST Pager #739-7527

Attention: Chasers! Chubby & Proud of it!

Cum Worship Me
I'm Hairy, Too!
Outcalls Only
\$100 • 563-7029

10" of Fat White Meat. 24 hrs. Hot Safe Clinton 922-8164

Dinner date or down & dirty
STUDFINDERS!
We've got the men who fit your needs. Try us. 541-5000



23, 5'10", 160 lbs, blond hair, blue eyes, cleancut student, smooth, muscular, swimmer, fun, safe, discreet. \$100. In/Out, will travel. **MIKE 267-3032.**

Models & Escorts

LEATHER BONDAGE BAG LEATHERMASTER EXPERT B&D - S/M

Experience the sensation of full body coverage. Fits your skin tight. Laces head to toe. Complete immobilization in a well equipped game room. A handsome level-headed leathermaster will guide you into a new sensual territory. Other bondage gear and masterful pain/pleasure trips.

**EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS
CALL BONDAGEMASTER
JOE (415) 431-2668**

AIDS Aware and absolutely safe
(No fluid exchange)

PUMP IT UP

Hot Butt
On a Young Sexy Man
Uncut Friendly Able
386-0902 Tim

MARINE

Hung big and thick, built tough, muscular, tattooed, will demonstrate stud maneuvers. \$100 & up. "Mike" 861-7379.

Straight dude, fat 8½ inches, kicks back for hd., solid muscle, real handsome, into good—hard—times, cigars, videos, attention & cpls. Nick. \$80. 861-7379.

HEART THROB

21, dark hair & eyes
stunning good looks
smooth, musc. body. 5'9", 150#
40c, 30w, avail for mass. &
J/O. \$100 in/out
Colin 931-5384

• WOLF • 753-6539



**Masculine • Blond • Hung
Aryan Stud, 24 Yrs.
\$100 IN • \$140 OUT**

Young, Hung, Masculine Man, Italian, Hairy-Chested, Straight looking, turns heads. In/out. David 647-7647

Grad student for tuition. Blond hairy hot hung 563-4019

Hot! pro Kinks 24hrs 863-6536

Uninhibited Hunk
Rugged hndsm hunk with a solid muscular body for U.
Rick 621-3990 Anytime.

WORSHIP the boy next door 9" EXTRA THICK CUT! FRENCH PASSIVE

Hot, boyish, cleanshaven, good looks, 6'1", 160 lbs., 26 yrs., green eyes, brown hair.

MIKE 664-2057

(If out, follow answering machine instructions to page for fast callback.)

\$100 • out only

Models & Escorts



DAN
\$100 • 922-3645

YEAH!

SIX FOOT SOLOFLEX
STRONG, SOLID & SEXY
GREAT LOOKS/CLEANCUT
HONEST THICK NINE
\$100/861-2206
Massage Included

BISEXUAL MUSCLES 255 lbs, 22" a, 55" c Dave 563-5176



**10 X 6 UNCUT
PAGER -739-7674**

SCOTT

24, 5'10", 165lbs. brown hair, green eyes, cleancut student, hairy, muscular, swimmer, fun, safe, discreet. \$100 in/ \$120 out. (415) 825-2433

Whips & paddles can be fun! Day B/D \$35. Zolt 771-8042.

Sexy blond jock with washboard abs & incredible pecs. 24 yrs, 5'9", 155#, 8" c, tanned, masculine & very handsome. \$80 in/ \$100 out Brandon 864-0788

Fat Black 10 Top Inches
Bp# 579-8858

Let Peter plow you 626-0864

Solid, 205lb Stud has big thick 8+ ". Needs Fr. Serv.
Andy 553-8960

Oakland Phallic Worship. Safe Gentle Top, 5'5", 142, Hairy. FR A/P, GRIA, J/O, Verbal. \$70 In MARC 444-3204

CHECK ME OUT

See to believe. 25 y/o rugged XXX-Handsome, XXX-Hung, XXX-ripped, lean, hard muscular god-body, tattoos. No BS. Serious stud pleasure seeker. I f--king dig attention. \$120.
RICK, 626-6839.

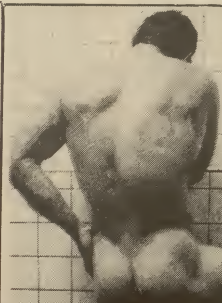
Models & Escorts

OBVIOUSLY ITALIAN

Handsome Hunk
Tall / Sexy / Chiseled
Hung Thick Nine
Safe, Friendly, and Fun
\$100 921-0811

BONDAGE & DISCIPLINE S/M Domination Etc. YOUNG SMOOTH TOP

23-yr-old, 6ft, 170lb, well-built, masculine master will train.
648-7260, KEN



JASON
175 lbs., 5'8½", 46" C, 29" W
864-2070 • \$115

Titwork — C&B — Titwork — \$60
Sexy, burly, dominant, & safe.
No fr/gr/ff. 621-0420 — Ian. \$25

YOUNG RED HEAD
Smooth 19 yrs old, Hung
call John 881-8773 \$100

Early Relief and Erotic Enjoyment.
Mark's Hot Hands/Videos. 24 hrs.
In/Out. 648-6081.

Hot Brazilian Stripper
LORENZO
\$100 in/out 431-0366

Smooth Student, 7" uncut, Br/Br.
Studfinder's Brian 541-5024

MEAT AND POTATOES 255-7740

24 HR DADDY
Big Butt Nipples
Tall Hairy Chad 861-7014

★ \$30 — Hot athlete. Hung nice. ★
★ Bill 441-1054 Massage, etc. ★

HUNKY SWED
Handsome Hung Tall Big Balls
24 Hrs Axel 863-0252

VIRILE SEXY ITALIAN
Hot, gdlkg, rockhard muscles
& athl legs. Vers, healthy,
yng, hung, tall Marine type.
Anytime. No BS.
Dan 753-8604

**MUSCULAR IRISHMAN
LIKES TO LEAN BACK
THICK CUT 8"**
32, 5'10", 190#, Br/Br
DAN • 861-7931
Anytime

HOT MUSCLE
Competitive BB — 235lbs.
54" Chest, 20" Arms,
29" Thighs, 19" Calves
Safe • IN/OUT
KEN 272-9418

Models & Escorts

TOP FUN

Good looking, friendly stud
Extra thick — Extra hung!!!
Anthony \$80.
864-6436

ALL...MAN

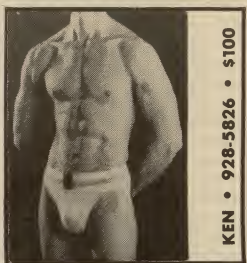
Hndsm bi hunk with hard, muscular body & huge tool. Ready for safe & fun games. Photos. Joe \$85 #626-8535.

A butt you can fit into the palm of your hand on an extremely handsome tan gymnast with ½" nipples on massive pecs. 5'9", 155#, 8" C, 24yrs. 864-0788. Steve \$80 in/ \$100 out. Lv. messg.

★ CHRIS NOLL ★

Erotic movie star, blond/blue, smooth, xtra hung. 285-0374

Bearded Balding Beer-Belly Hairy Bear 5'11", 220, 38, Rafael. A Studfinder Man. 995-4754



KEN • 928-5826 • \$100

Adventurous Blond BB.
See, feel, smell, taste.
24 hr. In/Out, 282-4662.

Horse-Hung Blond 285-4319

Lthr nylon spndx 863-3862

Mandate: Handsome & Hunky
IF YOU'RE READY
Day/Nite Safe Rob 863-3270

Pierced — Versatile — Ready
BEN RAY 7/89 HONCHO
A Studfinder Man 995-4637

ECSTASY NYCS BESTMAN

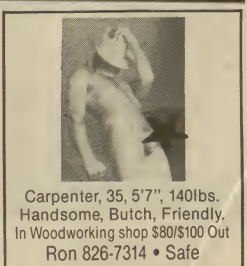
TERRY 626-5543 \$100
Hot Erotic Massage Fun. In town for 2 wks to teach at Body Electric. Call and leave message for callback.

1 OF A KIND

Big Stud, 6' 2", 215lbs, 19" a, 50" c, 34" w, will deliver the goods. Tired of feeling unsatisfied?
Call Mike 661-6400

DREAM BOY

Young • HOT • Handsome
MASCULINE
Sensual, Safe, Sexy, Discrete
"Go Ahead...Dream!"
9 2 8 - 4 8 9 6



Carpenter, 35, 5'7", 140lbs. Handsome, Butch, Friendly. In Woodworking shop \$80/\$100 Out Ron 826-7314 • Safe

BAY AREA REPORTER SPORTS & FITNESS

SF's Gay Athletes Unite For Gay Pride Parade

by Rick Thoman

With the Gay Games little over a year away, San Francisco's gay and lesbian athletic groups plan to form a large contingent in this year's Gay Freedom Day Parade to stimulate interest in Celebration '90.

Sparked by a challenge from Vancouver's Gay Games III outreach coordinator, Richard Dopson, Team San Francisco is organizing athletes and supporters into one of the largest marching units in the parade. All athletic groups and individuals are asked to meet at 11 a.m. on Sunday, June 25 (parade day), on Ford Street, between Noe and Sanchez.

Besides Team San Francisco organizers, other marching athletic groups include the San Francisco Frontrunners, San Francisco Track and Field Club, Tsunami Swim and Water Polo Team, San Francisco Trojans football squad, San Francisco Racquetball Club, Golden Gate Wrestling Club, Gay Tennis Federation, San Francisco Slammers women's basketball team, Different Spokes bicycle club, contestants from the Physique '89 body-building competition and more.

"We have over 200 members

in Team San Francisco," TSF Co-Chairman Bob Puerzer said. "They represent a vast array of the gay sports community, from golf to softball, from bowling to billiards. If just the members of Team San Francisco showed up to march, we'd have an impressive display of the San Francisco gay and lesbian athletic community."

Celebration '90 will share a booth at the Civic Center with Team San Francisco, drumming up interest for Gay Games III and reminding everyone that opening ceremonies in Vancouver is just over a year away. Registration for the Games will be available, as well as dozens of Celebration '90 products and souvenirs. Team San Francisco will be taking orders for their Gay Games III warm-up outfits, which all athletic groups representing San Francisco will wear in the opening and closing ceremonies.

"With Vancouver here to whip up support for the Games, we hope to show how committed San Francisco remains to the Gay Games," Puerzer reported.

He hopes the size of the athletic marching group will arouse those who haven't yet committed themselves to participation in the 1990 Gay Games, as

well as show the diversity of opportunities the gay athletic community provides.

"San Francisco has an excellent athletic program established. The Tsunami Swim team, the Slammers' basketball team, our soccer and track teams as well as many others are all championship caliber," Puerzer pointed out. "But like any other organization, they thrive on infusions of new members to help continue the enthusiasm and drive that was established back in 1982 when the first Gay Games occurred and many of these groups got started."

Puerzer pointed out that a majority of San Francisco's athletic teams are already preparing to compete in next year's Gay Games in Vancouver.

"We just want to make sure everyone who's interested in participating knows that now is the time to start getting involved in their favorite sport so they don't miss out on the Games."

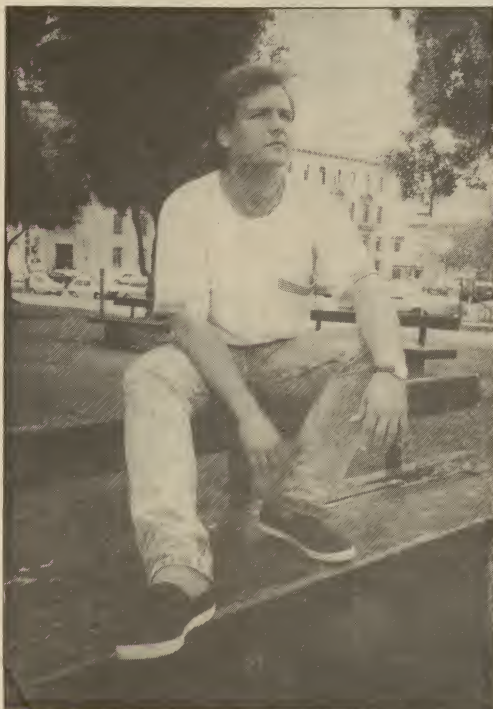
For more information about marching with the athletic contingency, or information about Team San Francisco and Gay Games III, contact Puerzer at 826-2651 or Nancy Warren at 861-6739.

BOWLING

Tavern Guild Leagues/Park Bowl

Schwabe Tearing Up the Lanes

by Richard McPherson



Tavern Guild bowler Kevin Schwabe is averaging 218.

(Photo: R. McPherson)

Tavern Guild League bowler Kevin Schwabe is back on track and producing scores on the lanes the likes of which have never been seen before in the San Francisco gay league scene.

A former touring pro, Schwabe is averaging 218 for 24 games in the Wednesday TGL. During the weeks of May 31 and June 7 Kevin shot back-to-back 700 series for the Pilsner 8 Balls, the first bowler ever to accomplish such a feat in local organized gay leagues.

Schwabe began his spree of major 200s with a 718 series on May 31, comprised of 259, 227 and 232 games. The following week he topped himself, shooting 269, 234, 231 for a 734 series.

Out of eight weeks of league, Schwabe has had three 700+ series, his highest being 782, shot at the start of the season.

Inspired by his mighty performance on June 7, Pilsner 8 Ball teammates joined in the striking spree. J.C. Halstead, another name consistently in the news, was two pins shy of a 700 series himself, shooting a 698, on games of 276, 239, and 183. Behind him was teammate Dave Lilly who had a 248/642 set.

Rick Axelrod, newcomer to the

(Continued on next page)

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Overpassers in the Driver's Seat

After posting dramatic victories over the Scandalous Chaos and Deluxe Ducks last week, the Overpassers are on the verge of claiming the San Francisco Pool Association's spring season city championship.

Last Tuesday they hosted the Scandalous Chaos in a tie-breaking match and they rolled out to a 3-0 advantage, including a table run by their top gun, Jim Russo. Ching-a-Ling broke the ice for the Chaos, followed by Jack Dunbar's table run from Russo's open break. Ching added another win to knot the match at three apiece. Chaos captain Charles Dossett next came through for a 4-3 Chaos advantage and what would prove to be their last win of the season. Jim Russo turned the tide with his second table run, which led to an onslaught that saw his team sweep into the finals on a 9-4 match victory.

The Deluxe Ducks hosted the Overpassers last Thursday night in the first match of the best-of-three championship series. E.Z.

and Lisa Duncan reeled in the first two games for the hosts but Brandon Bridges and Rick Mariani answered for the visitors to even the first-quarter score at 2-2.

Duncan, stroking beautifully, added two more for the Ducks and was countered by Russo and Mariani for a 4-4 result. Only E.Z. managed a win in the third quarter as the visitors rolled out to a 7-5 advantage. Duncan led off the fourth quarter and was on the verge of a table run as she took aim at a straight in 8-ball in the side. Mouths dropped when the black ball didn't and Mariani gleefully tapped in the last three balls for the 8-5 lead. This was only Duncan's second post-season loss and she remains the team leader at 15-2.

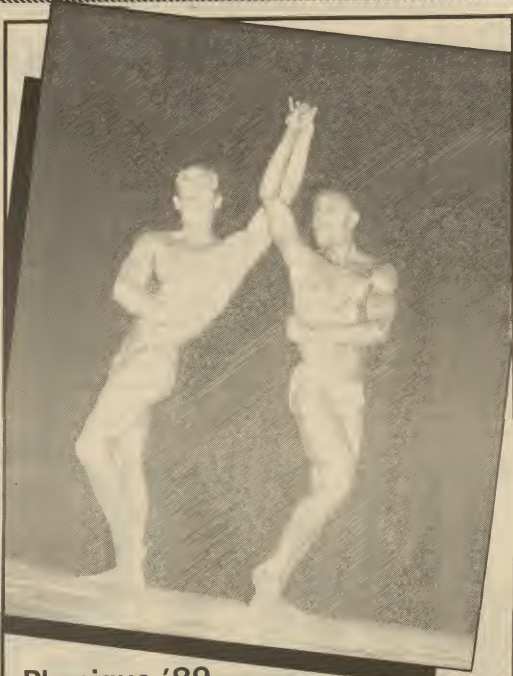
Ducks captain Lauren Ward kept the team alive with a seven-ball runoff to down Russo and close the score to 8-6. E.Z. appeared on the way to a win as he ran down to the 8-ball. Unfortunately for the hosts, his position fell short and the bank shot that resulted missed, leaving

Brandon Bridges, one of the league's most dramatically improved players, an easy two ball out for the match victory, 9-6.

On Tuesday of this week the teams meet again with the Ducks in a must-win situation to force a tie-breaker on Thursday night at Deluxe. Should that match be necessary, it will be the last league match to be played at the long time sponsor. The bar has changed hands and will be remodeled as the many dramatic pool matches played there fade into memories.

This season's city champion team will join six of the league's top individual players as participants in West Coast Challenge XIX, slated for July 14-16 in San Diego. Congratulations to the third- and fourth-place teams, the Cinch Killer Beez and the Scandalous Chaos.

• Anyone wishing to join the Team San Francisco contingent in the Freedom Day Parade should assemble at Sanchez and Ford streets at 11 a.m. on Sunday. Dial JOE-POOL for SFFA information. ▼



Physique '89

The National Gay and Lesbian Bodybuilding Championships will be held Saturday, June 24, at the Palace of Fine Arts Theatre, at 7 p.m. About 100 lesbian and gay bodybuilders from across the United States and around the world will participate.

Bowling

(Continued from previous page)

San Francisco bowling scene from Los Angeles, along with lover Frank Saccio, connected up on the lanes, also, two weeks running with back-to-back 689, 672 series. Bowling for Lovers with Many Strangers, also in the Wednesday TGL, Axelrod's sets included 238, 217, 234/689 and 197, 216, 259/672. Both Rick and Frank are making a fine showing in the local competitive bowling scene, and San Francisco welcomes them both.

Mark Platis and Ernie Wilson both made tremendous over-average achievements, as well Bowling for Bow-K in the Wednesday TGL, Platis, a 166 average, shot 209, 223, 239 for a 671 series, 173 pins over his average. The following night, bowling for Ma's Kids, Mark produced a 646 set on games of 224, 223, and 199.

On May 31, in the Wednesday TGL, Ernie Wilson, 165 average, shot at 659 series for the Leftovers, 164 pins over his average. Wilson shot games of 221, 236 and 202. The following week Ernie shot a very consistent 202, 206, 207/615 set.

For their achievements both Platis and Wilson will receive American Bowling Congress awards for 150+ over average for three games.

And the high scores don't stop there. Rodger Asai, a 158 average for Pilsner 1 in the Wednesday TGL, had the highest over-average achievement for a single game with a 253, 95 pins over his average. In Park Bowl's Tavern Guild Trios, Frank Rauch, a 176 average, had 219, 198, 235/652. Tim Mulvenon (187) had a 237, 210/650 and 255/631, Don Gambell (179) 230, 191, 226/647 and 221, 221/639, Darrel Haven (156) 245, 212/644, Hunter Bauman (187) 243/628, Dick Cavanaugh (184) 212, 223/605, Tim Benton (192) 206/603, Roy Thorson (188) 231/601.

Following are the 215+ games in the TGLs at Park Bowl for the weeks between May 31 to June 8: Nathan Hauser (201) 248, Kevin Keefer (167) 243, Tim Benton (191) 237, Dave Lilly (181) 236, Roy Thorson (196) 233, Greg Cassinelli (171) 229, John Johnson (163) 227, Hank Givan (176) 227, Rob Levi (166) 225, Bob Mack (168) 224, George Corrico (190) 224, John Glynn (160) 224, David Hird (163) 223, John Seiler (163) 223, Bob Bates (169) 222, Don McPherson (147) 217, Mal Garcia (161) 217, Ron Squires (164) 215.

Congratulations to the following on their outstanding over-average achievements: A.J. Galloway (122) 215, Larry Grant (129) 212, 187/548, Cindy Eck (137) 210.

Robyn Trost (175) was high for the women with 215, 202/597.

Honorable mention (160 average and under): David Frankhouse (156) 215, Dion Cessna (156) 213/587, Jeff Baker (158) 212, Donald Choy Jr. (159) 211, Hanolei Tagalao (144) 208, Dave Gooding (152) 206, Elizabeth Yesowitch (151) 200.

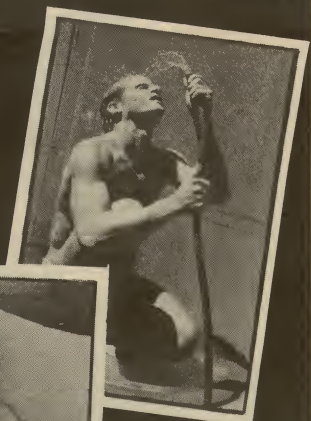
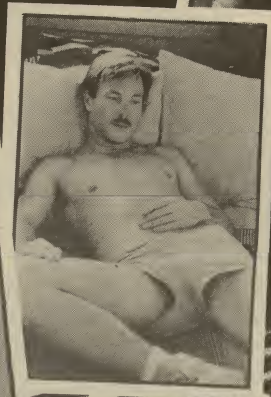
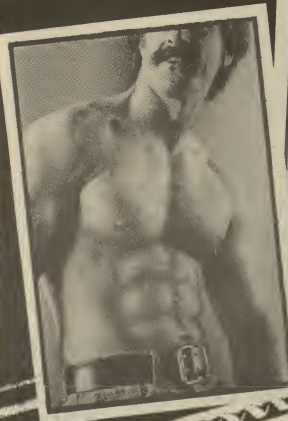
Challenge Match II between San Francisco, San Jose and Sacramento is set up for July 15 at 1 p.m. at Fiesta Lanes in San Jose. The purpose of these match sessions is to create a competitive atmosphere in preparation for the games and to just generally have a good time. San Francisco has two five-man teams participating, one in the 1,000 range and another around 880. There is room for more teams to take part. Anyone wanting to put together a team, men or women or mixed can call Jack Stone (408) 294-4599.

As of the last issue of the Bay Area Reporter we began a new format for the bowling column. My column will run every two weeks, covering the Tavern Guild Leagues at Park Bowl. Japantown will be submitting its own column on alternate weeks. ▼

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Rainbow 'Toos Brand Rawhide; Rendezvous Scores 1st Win

The Rainbow 'Toos did it again. There was a lot of excitement at Balboa's cold fields Sunday morning. The 'Toos defense was strong, especially Marco at short stop.

The Rawhide Tumbleweeds were falling behind at the top of the sixth, the score 13-8. Those Tumbleweeds started whipping those bats and went ahead, 14-13. Bobby Graham got them started, then the moter to all, Terry

McCord, smashed one up the middle. Darlene Boulanger's line drive over first base brought in Bobby to tie at 14-14. Then Jim Smithy singled to bring in the winning run 15-14.

A great game in the recreational division.

On the other field Uncle Bert's Bombers ate up the Stud Puppies, 17-4. I hope Tommy Lee isn't too burnt in Hawaii. The Puppies might have lost, but they

always look fine on the field!

The Pilsner Penguins with their great defensive new infield was too strong for the Eagle. John Heines' three-run homer and Victor Thomas' triple was not enough. The bats of Bobby Colson and Jerry Gonzales kept those Penguins alive beating the Eagle 9-5.

The Rainbow 'Roos added another victory to their standings over the Bear, 23-5. In a make-up



Amelia's teammates congratulate each other on a job well done. (Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

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game, Cafe Sn. Marcos cruised by Cassidy's 12-4. Home runs by Dan Moore and Lenny Broberg plus two RBIs each secured the Cafe.

In the Women's Division the Galleon Women defeated the all-time favorite, Amelia's Aviators, 3-1. The pitching of Lisa Kekuwa stopped the Aviators cold. The Galleon had some strong bats: Terry Geldart, Lisa Kekuwa, and Wendy Gershow kept them going. Congratulations on a great game, Galleon. Then we have the Galleon Men with Mark Schultz's three-run homer and Denny Geoffrey's grand slam to beat Cassidy's 20-0.

The big upset of the day—the Rendezvous in extra innings edged off Castro Cleaners/Pendulum 5-4. This is Rendezvous' first win of the season. Great job, it's not over yet, boys.

The Corral bats were on with Charlie McClain's, Bob's and Monty Casley's home runs to end the game with a score of 12-6 over

the Pilsner Pistons. Has Mark Fielder called anyone lately?

In another make-up game the Women's Travelers flew by Amelia's 2-1. It was Amelia's second loss of the day. The Women's Division is very competitive these days. Anything can happen in the playoffs to come. The Travelers in a very windy game and their second win of the day beat Hot 'n' Hunky 4-0. At the other end of the wind tunnel the Cafe Cruisers added on another victory over the Mint.

Uncle Bert's Bandits and Barbelles are in Hawaii playing in a softball tournament. Hope they're doing well on and off the field.

Don't forget the Gay Softball League has two beer booths on Gay Pride Day, Sunday, June 25. The locations are in front of the Civic Center and at Larkin and Fulton streets. We need more volunteers, so if you haven't signed up, please call Donna Jane at

(Continued on next page)

Vacation Bowling League For Gay Games

Japantown Bowl has announced that it will form a vacation bowling league for people who wish to attend Gay Games III, which will take place in August 1990 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

The Gay Games III League, which will bowl on Friday evenings at Japantown, will be similar in format to the bowling center's highly successful Hawaii Vacation League.

In the Hawaii League, which ran for four seasons, bowlers paid \$20 per week, with part of the money going for normal league fees. The rest of the money pays for each bowler's hotel and air fare for the trip to Honolulu.

"We haven't been able to determine yet how much the GG III League will cost each week for the bowlers," said Will Snyder, Japantown Bowl publicity director, "because we haven't received final confirmation from gay travel agents about hotel rates. But Team San Francisco promised to give us the final rates just as soon as it receives them."

Gay Games III will be held Aug. 4-11, 1990, with opening and closing ceremonies at the British Columbia Place, the 60,000-seat domed stadium home of the British Columbia Lions of the Canadian Football League.

Officials for the Metropolitan Vancouver Athletics and Arts Association estimate that 25,000 people will be at the opening ceremonies, an increase of an estimated 10,000 compared with the crowd that attended similar ceremonies at Gay Games II at Kezar Stadium in San Francisco in 1986.

Snyder said that while league fees and league length had yet to be determined, bowlers are urged to register for the fall and winter league as soon as possible. For more information call 921-6200. Anyone unfamiliar with Team San Francisco or previous Gay Games may get more information by calling Bob Puerzer at 552-1406, Nancy Warren at 861-6739 or Allen Balderston at 863-6592. ▼

Amelia's, Details of Long Beach Take Golden Bear Classic Crowns

by Rick Ritt

The women of Amelia's using tight defense and timely hitting swept six straight games to take the initial championships in the women's division of the Golden Bear Classic on Memorial Day weekend.

Joining the Gay Softball League—Women's Division for the weekend festivities was Savoys of San Jose and the Cascade Cowgirls from Seattle. On Saturday, May 27, teams began play in a round-robin format, which saw each team compete against each other once to determine seedings in a one-game elimination championship.

Amelia's gained the top seed in the championship round by sweeping four straight games. Second place in the round robin was taken by the Galleon Women who defeated the Cowgirls from the northwest in the final game of the round-robin to drop Seattle to third. The final spot in the playoffs was grabbed by the Women's Traveler who eliminated the San Jose Women.

The semifinals of the Women's Championship bracket saw the top seed Amelia's taking on the Women's Traveler and the Galleon Women having a rematch with the Seattle Women. The opening contest with Amelia's and Women's Traveler saw the game scoreless through three innings. Then like lightning, the Aviators went on to score 11 runs to which the "Agents" could only match one, which gave a spot in the finals to Amelia's.

In the other semi-finals, the Cascade Cowgirls got revenge for their defeat in the round robin by powering to a 13-6 victory over the women from the Galleon.

The final contest saw the women from Valencia Street continue their strong hitting for the first two innings by scoring five runs. The cowgirls could only match the five spot with two runs of their own. The game then became a defensive contest with Amelia's behind the pitching of Sandy Gilarduchi and the infield play of women's division MVP Patti Flynn, who turned back each challenge from the team from Seattle to hang on for a 5-3 victory to claim the winner's trophy.

The open division tournament bracket saw teams from Long Beach (Details) and Los Angeles (Mother Lode) joining 10 teams from the GSL for a double-elimination tournament format.

Saturday's play saw teams trying to avoid the loser's bracket and the prospect of playing many games to take home a trophy. Highlights of Saturday's play were the surprising first two victories of the Pilsner Pistons, the dominating play of details of Long Beach, and the bottom of the seventh home run by Paul Olson, giving the Galleon a 7-6 victory eliminating the Pilsner Penguins.

Sunday started with eight teams still alive for the championship. The two teams in the winner's bracket, OCC/Pendulum and Details, met early Sunday in what was a classic tournament contest. Details was down to its last out in the seventh when an error by the Cleaners' outfielder allowed a Long Beach run-

ner to get aboard.

The next Details batter then blasted a Mark Brown pitch by the OCC/Pendulum left fielder for a game winning two-run home run. This dropped the Cleaners into the loser's bracket to wait for the winner of the fourth-place game between the Stud and the Pilsner Pistons. The ensuing contest saw the Stud break out on top 19-6 only to hang on for a 19-15 victory.

Congrats to the Pistons who with the aid of their pick-up players—Manny Simmons and Tim Murphy—advanced further than any of the other GSL recreational teams in the tourney.

The Stud after their victory over the Pistons took on the OCC/Pendulum with the loser earning third place. The Stud came out sluggish in their third contest of the day. The OCC/Pendulum, anxious for another shot at the Details, got their bats hot for

the finals and pounded out a 13-6 win. This set up a rematch of the winner's bracket final between Details of Long Beach and the OCC/Pendulum. The Long Beach team jumped out in front 6-4 using their bats, which had been so potent over the weekend. An error in the fifth by OCC/Pendulum short stop Chris Jensen left the gate open for details. With some aggressive base running and a three-run home run by open division MVP Bobby Nolde the Details scored five runs to open up an 11-4 lead. The Details went on to score a 14-7 victory and capture the third Golden Bear Classic crown in the open division.

The victors were then celebrated in a motorized cable car tour of the city. The champagne was uncorked and the beer flowed as more than 200 participants watched the sun set at Ocean Beach and took in the

starry view from Twin Peaks. For those of you who missed this, it was a night to remember.

Many thanks to the people who made the Golden Bear Classic a success—Claire Monfort, women's tournament director, the board of GSL, Donna Gecewicz, Jeff Baker, and Jack Lemasters. Special thanks to Frank Rivera for the wonderful music on the cable cars. ▼



Softball

(Continued from previous page)

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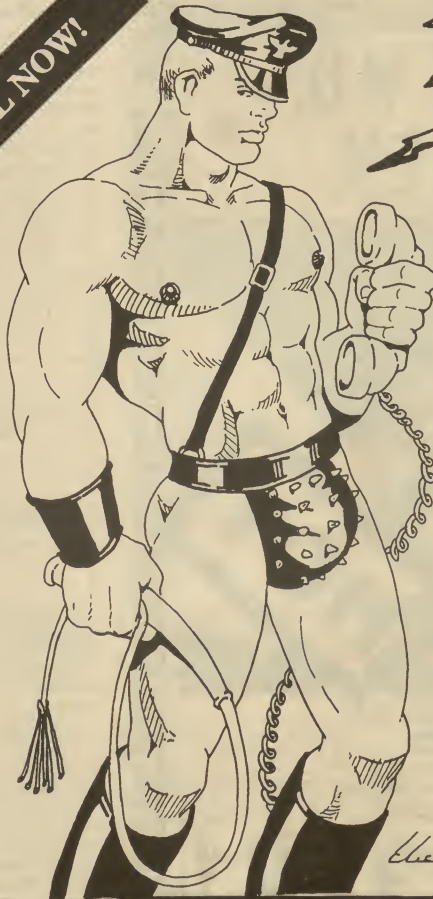
See you all back on the field, Sunday, July 9 at Jackson. Enjoy your weekends off.

GSL STANDINGS

OPEN DIVISION		
TEAM	W	L
Uncle Bert's Bombers	9	1
Sentinel	8	1
Pilsner Penguins	6	3
Uncle Bert's Bandits	5	4
S.F. Eagle	4	5
OCC/Pendulum	4	6
The Stud	1	9
The Rendezvous	1	9
WOMEN'S DIVISION		
TEAM	W	L
Amelia's	7	2
Galleon Women	6	3
Women's Travelers	6	4
Uncle Bert's Barbelles	3	6
Hot 'n' Hunky	1	8
REC DIVISION		
TEAM	W	L
Rainbow 'Roos	9	0
Galleon Men	8	1
Cafe Sn. Marcos	7	2
The Corral	7	3
The Mint	4	5
Pilsner Pistons	4	6
Rawhide Tumbleweeds	2	6
Rainbow 'Toos	2	7
Cassidy's	1	8
The Bear	1	8

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Dance

(Continued from page 69)

The Joffrey Ballet seized on the climate of freedom so utterly that some poorly conceived projects failed almost overnight. The late Joe Layton's ballet, *Double Exposure* (1972), based on Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, disappeared after one season, its only merit consisting in its sexually alluring lead male role.

But Gerald Arpino made flamboyant men's roles throughout the decade surrounding Stonewall, undressing his male dancers in *Olympics* (1966), *Animus* (1969) and *Sacred Grove on Mount Tamalpais* (1972). His *Relativity of Icarus* (1975) contained a slow, extended pas de deux for two men whose nearly nude bodies were reflected from every angle in a series of mirrored set pieces. Despite Arpino's protestations that homoeroticism was not his intention, the *Icarus* pas de deux is still regarded as the most blatantly sexual dance for two men that has ever been made by an American choreographer. More than one critic called it "pornographic," and whether that overstates the ballet's prurience, an audience that is familiar only with the repertory the Joffrey presents today might be scandalized by a glimpse of its mid-'70s fare.

As the Joffrey's audiences and funding sources have become more conservative, so have Arpino's ballets. Glen Tetley, meanwhile, has become an artistic associate of the tradition-steeped National Ballet of Canada, and



Dancers perform a complex pas de trois in "lunar" costumes in *Mutations*.

(Photo: After Dark/1972)

Mutations does not appear on his resume there. Was the gay sensibility of these two major choreographers a mere rebellion of their youth? Or does the sexual reticence of their newer choreography simply reflect the times we live in?

I know of only two lesbian pas

de deux in the entire dance repertory: Roland Petit's *Les Intermittences du Coeur*, based on Proust's *Remembrance of Things Past* (for the Ballet de Marseilles), and Brenda Way's *Loose the Thread*, set in almost the same period and also inspired by literary models. Both

ballets contain important male pas de deux as well. There is a definite gay presence among younger choreographers, but their point of departure is usually a form of androgyny rather than an image that average gay men can relate to or, even less, find sexually stimulating. One notable exception is Lar Lubovitch, whose overall choreographic output has been relatively conservative, but whose excellent 1985 male pas de deux from *Concerto Six Twenty-Two* has affected audiences in much the same way that Nebrada's *Gemini* did in the '70s.

In New York, Bill T. Jones and Arnie Zane, partners on stage and off, began their collaborations with tender, politically astute supported duets, but these were abandoned in favor of mixed-ensemble works long before Zane died of AIDS last year. A relatively new figure in New York modern dance, Mark Dendy, uses drag in his pieces. British dancer/choreographer Michael Clark, the rage of 1985, combined drag with a punk sensibility, ballet, homosexual

violence, rock music and the kitchen sink. But like Boy George, Clark came and went.

On the West Coast, Tim Miller, now in Los Angeles, maintains a somewhat militantly gay political profile, but his art is correspondingly verbal and conceptual; he often appears solo. San Francisco's Joe Goode allows effeminacy, vulnerability and anger to show in his very theatrical pieces, and most gay people see in them an unmistakable gay sensibility. But Goode's material reflects its sexuality in conceptual isolation; the figures he shows us are almost resolutely beyond the reality of sexual behavior.

The hottest American choreographer of the day is the openly gay Mark Morris, whose small company is now based in Brussels, where Bejart's company used to be. Morris dances women's roles in some of his ballets—and they're good roles and good ballets. But he seems no more interested than anyone else in using sexuality as a force in his choreography beyond portraying some aspect of femininity that intrigues him, thus far a privilege given to no other dancers in his company.

These are the most powerful gay images we have in American dance at the moment, and they admirably express the concerns of their makers. But there is no vision of intimate gay connection equivalent to the heterosexual liaisons that fill nearly every program of dance in the world.

In her *Village Voice* review of the "Sex and Dance" series at New York's Dance Theatre Workshop (fall 1986), Joan Accolla described most of the dances on the series' 12 concerts as "post-erotic . . . exorcisms of sex . . . They were about sex, but they disassociated themselves from it."

"What the works actually showed," she wrote, "was that sexual liberation has hit hard times."

Accolla wonders whether we've actually gotten any more comfortable with sexuality (alternative and otherwise) since the rebellions of the '60s; and I ask the same question.

For gay people, at any rate, the work of a few courageous choreographers will be our consolation, until some future generation again insists that sensual connections between members of the same sex are beautiful to watch, and worthy of a place on our dancing stages. ▼

Lesbian Theatre

(Continued from page 89)

"It's just a matter of time before lesbians are on Broadway," she says.

Lesbians, of course, are on Broadway, but they are not out on Broadway.

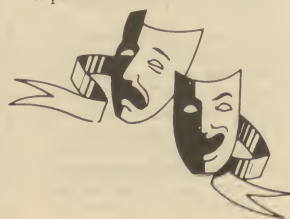
Lesbians in theatre have come far since a time when survival in the business meant "passing" and shrouding one's off-stage life from public view, and the on-stage image was of women who were sick and self-destructive. From New York's WOW Cafe to Theatre Rhinoceros and other performance venues, the opportunity now exists for us to create a theatre for ourselves.

The gay and lesbian play anthologies, *Gay Plays* and *Out Front*, and the lesbian collection of plays, *Places, Please* are a few

of the first resources for scripts in this country (Britain's track record seems to be better than ours in this area).

Periodicals such as *Theatre Journal*, *TDR*, *Women & Performance*, and *Performing Arts Journal* have published articles on lesbian performance and the representation of lesbians on stage.

Despite these accomplishments, lesbians in theatre still must be aware, Prandini points out, that "nobody hands the work to you. Don't wait. Do it. Art is power. Seize it!" ▼



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